Skinny people are dull and crunchy like carrots

Suzanne Britt Jordan

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SKINNY PEOPLE ARE DULL AND CRUNCHY LIKE CARROTS

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POSOVICH
1983

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I TRY TO STAY FAT.

I am fairly fat, ranging in overweightness from 10 to 20 pounds. This is the best I can do. Of course the judgment that I am overweight may be nothing but foolish propaganda put forth by insurance companies, diet doctors, fashion arbiters, and my mother. It is quite likely that I am EXACTLY THE RIGHT SIZE. I'm sorry I couldn't be fatter. I know where my true roots are: fat people are my people. I am a fat person's fat person. I am a real human being. I am too nice, too fun-loving, too witty, too smart, and too hungry to let myself be turned into a true skinny. Size 14 is good enough for me.

I have a big appetite and am fun to feed. I will eat almost anything as long as it's not overtly dietetic. I eat carrots only on days when I have low self-esteem or when the

peanuts run out. I am an ex-binger; I gave up bingeing when I quit dieting. I think diets throw the whole system out of whack, and I don't mean the physical system. I'm talking about the mental and emotional system. Perfectly nice people have been ruined by high-protein, low-fat,liquid, rice, calorie-counting, diet-pill, or fasting diets. I think grapefruit brings out the worst in people. I think the most awful place to spend your life is inside a diet-club meeting. You ought to be eating prime rib and discussing questions of good and evil, not eating celery and discussing how many calories are in a stick of gum or which vegetables are legal.

Anyway, I think inside every fat person is a smart person who has been unjustly attacked and vastly under-rated. And inside every skinny person is an arrogant bore.

Skinny people with skinny standards and skinnier souls have long oppressed the robust, the healthy, the well-

rounded, the good-souled fat people of the world. These skinny slickeroos have picked the one thing they are good at,— being skinny,— and made it the standard by which every modern American has to be measured.

Why didn't fat and medium-sized people rise up and overthrow these skinny tyrants with a single flick of the fat finger? Because fat people are too nice, that's why. Fat people have hated to resort to the tiny little tactics of skinny people. Fat people have tried to be more accepting, even attempting, in diet after diet, to appease some mean skinny person issuing some rigid ultimatum. Fat people have never tried to make skinny people get fat. They just wanted them to shut up. Fat people have not been interested in zealous evangelism.

They had room in their hearts for everybody, even people who looked like thermometers and zippers, even people who could be blown off the face of the earth in one mighty belch.

But the skinny standard has been lowered too far. The rights of fat people are in jeopardy. Skinny people and skinny sentiments are invading our life space. The dignity of two whole body types is at stake. Endomorphs and mesomorphs have had enough. We will smite the enemy. We will expose every skinny person as the humorless, logical, carrot-eating dullard he is. We are sick of them dry bones that make up your typical skinny person. We want to see some fat.

I GIVE THE PINCH TEST A BIG, FAT "F."

Some people aren't sure whether they're skinny or fat. They may feel fat and be skinny. Or they may be fat and feel like hell. Or they may be fat up top and skinny below, or fat below and skinny up top.

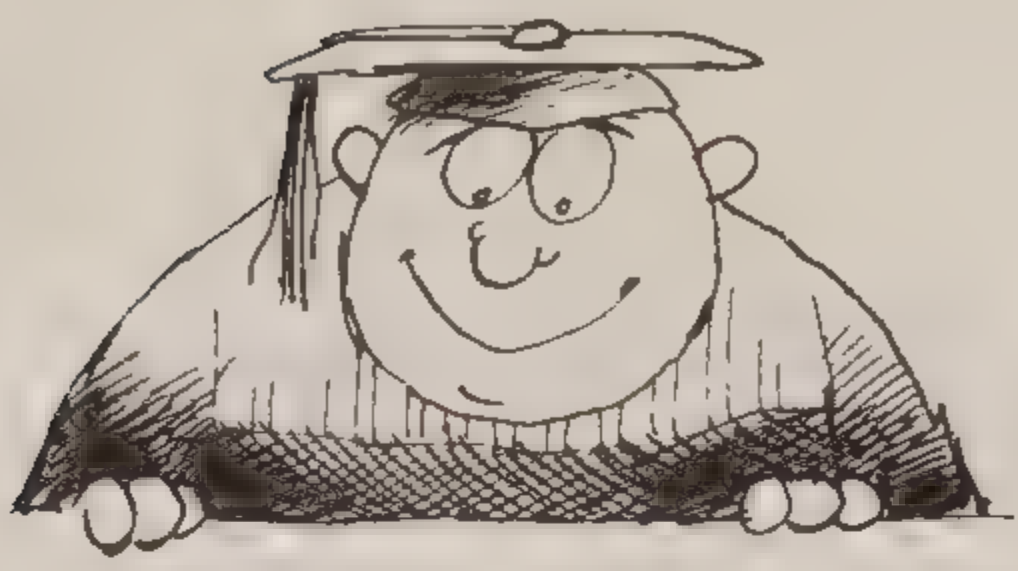
Doctors and skinny women in diet-drink commercials are always telling us to take the pinch test. The pinch test is unreliable: everything depends on where you're pinching, when you're pinching, and who's doing the pinching. Are you pinching after Thanksgiving dinner or a weekend at the beach? Are you pinching in the middle of your bosom, between your legs, or in your armpits?

Do you like pinching, in and of itself? Some people are really into pinching: they may get so carried away pinching, they forget to take their measurements. Then too, are you pinching yourself or is somebody doing it for you? Is the pincher intimately involved with the pinchee? These factors can seriously affect the outcome of the test.

I just can't take in all the myriad complications of pinching, not the least of which is all those little blue bruises. Better methods of skinny and fat detection are needed. It is imperative that you learn once and for all the difference between skinny and fat. After all, skinny people are nerds. You wouldn't want to marry one or anything.

I propose, therefore, the following SKINNY DIAGNOSTIC TEST. If your loved one or potential loved one flunks this test, sentence him to two weeks at the nearest Baskin-Robbins.

SKINNY DIAGNOSTIC TEST



This test will help you discover whether you are:

1. hopelessly skinny, right down to the bone,
2. moderately skinny, with happy little flashes of fat,
3. or totally, lip-smackingly fat.

1. Your stomach looks like

a. a watermelon.
b. a piece of plywood.
c. a garden pea.
(d) a bomb crater.

2. You can tell exactly how many bones you have just by looking.

(a) True
b. False

3. Given a choice, you would rather

a. nibble diced parsnips.
b. go through a pound of malted milk balls in one sitting.
(c) mulch the boxwoods AFTER A 6-PACK OF MILLER!
d. sleep.

4. You sometimes get so busy that you forget to eat.

a. occasionally.
b. often.
(c) not one single time since birth.

5. You think about food

a. never.
(b) when you happen to bump into it.
c. when somebody calls you to dinner.
d. day and night without ceasing.

6. Your idea of a really good time is

(a) Drinking bourbon and talking dirty.
b. baking brownies and eating them all up.
c. chalking the bathtub on Saturday night.
d. sorting jigsaw puzzle parts according to share and color.

7. Your favorite treat is

a. Ring-dings and chocolate chips mashed into a full cup of pralines-and-cream ice cream and swirled around until all is a nice, mushy, gloppy mess which you then eat over the top of pecan pie.
b. a scout jamboree and knot tying contest.
c. all the piña coladas you can drink.
(d) ~~weak tea~~. b & c

8. Your idea of immoral behavior is

a. throwing out a leftover bite of cheesecake that has hardly any germs on it.
b. an unalphabetized address book.
(c) irregularity.
d. being a math major.

9. When you feel tense, you often

a. neaten up your desk drawers.
b. bring your stamp collection up to date.
c. take out your woodcarving set and make bird feeders.
(d) drink bourbon and watch television evangelists take prayer requests FOR OL' RONNIE BUD.

10. If you had to choose between your spouse and crabmeat au gratin, you would choose

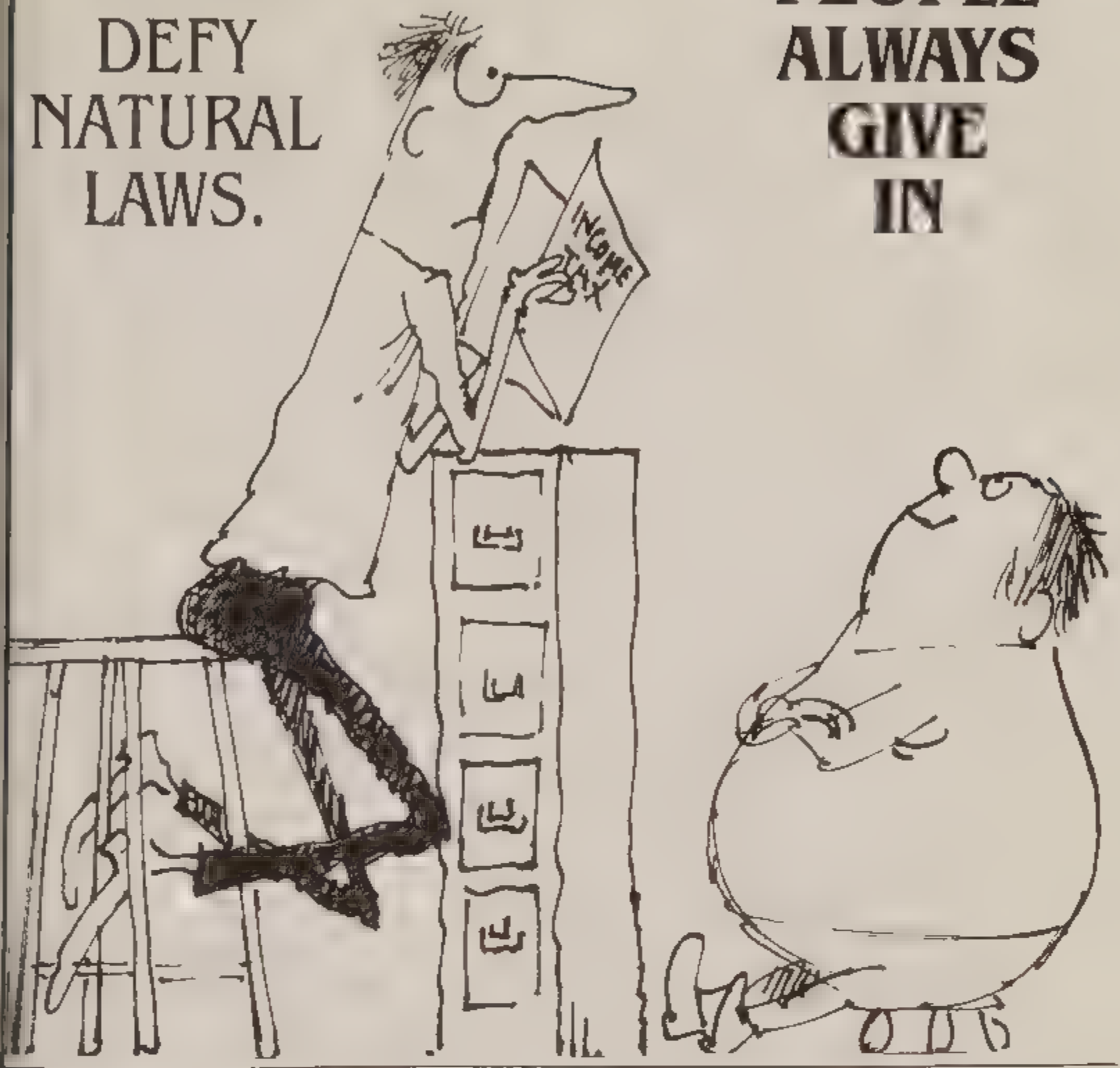
(a) ~~your spouse~~. 5 KEGS OF BUDWEISER!
b. crabmeat au gratin.

Consider yourself sinfully skinny if you answered
1. *b,c,d.* 2. *a.* 3. *a,c.* 4. *a,b.* 5. *a,b,c.* 6. *c,d.* 7. *b,d.* 8. *b,c,d.* 9. *a,b,c.* 10. *a.*

Consider yourself fortunately fat if you answered.
1. *a.* 2. *b.* 3. *b,d.* 4. *c.* 5. *d.* 6. *a,b.* 7. *a,c.* 8. *a.* 9. *d.* 10. *b.*

SKINNY PEOPLE DEFY NATURAL LAWS.

FAT PEOPLE ALWAYS GIVE IN



When fat people are just getting settled into their Big-boy recliners for a fun evening of talking dirty and eating, skinny people are popping up off their stools to go file their tax returns. Fat people feel a certain responsibility to cooperate with gravity. When gravity is on their side, they do not resist: they will sit, sag, hang, dangle, or lie down. Not so with skinny people. Skinny people resist gravity. They sit when they should lie down, stand when they should sit, walk when they should stand still, and run when they should walk. They sometimes stand on their heads. Often, their feet do not hit the ground for days on end.

Also, skinny people do not follow the natural dictates of their natural bodies. Fat people know very well that bottoms were made for sitting on. Skinny people not only don't know what bottoms are for but also don't have any. A real bottom is round, soft, cushiony.

God gave humans bottoms so they wouldn't have to take pillows to all the ballgames.

Skinny people are unaware of the natural propensities of good bottoms. In fact, skinny people have so long denied the natural use and function of bottoms that their bottoms have become extinct. This strange mutation has occurred across centuries: skinny bottoms have atrophied, wasted away, shriveled up to nothing. The effect is pitiful. But this is why skinny people never sit down: it hurts too much. Be nice to skinny people: give them a big soft lap to sit on.

WHEN THOU SPREADEST A FEAST BEFORE SKINNY PEOPLE, THEY WILL

...immediately begin ~~trimming the fat off~~ EATING the roast beef even the brown crunchy part that fat people would kill for.

...~~verbally~~ FORGET TO compute the carbohydrate count of all foods on the table, especially the food a fat person is about to put in his mouth.

...rave about the string beans, how crisp and yummy they are.

...shove the plate away and ~~complain of a slight nausea~~ ASK FOR MORE DESSERT

...fuss about how "rich" everything is.

...~~jiggle the table up and down all through dinner by nervously shaking~~ EAT EVERYTHING IN SIGHT AND WONDER WHAT ~~their legs.~~ HAPPENED TO THE OTHER 6 COURSES

...make funny little ~~sucking, popping, and knuckle cracking~~ BURPING sounds.

...discuss the Dow-Jones over fresh coconut cake with sour cream icing.

...ask for ~~an ashtray~~ A GOOD BEER and ~~smoke~~ DRINK throughout dinner.

...lecture on the importance of daily elimination and set a good example for everybody by sprinkling bran on the lobster.
...ask for a vitamin with iron.
...eat all the tomato aspic and leave the buttered yeast roll.
...insist on some plain yogurt and a bit of ~~dry toast~~. VODKA
...discuss photosynthesis over the rocky-road ice cream with hot fudge sauce.
...eat one bite of pecan pie, GOBBLE THE REST, ~~put down the fork with a sigh~~, and talk about being "~~stuffed~~." STARVED
...~~cover~~ CHUG the wine ~~glass with a bony hand~~ every time the waiter comes round to pour.
...straighten the silverware, being careful that all of it is exactly one inch from the edge of the table.
...say they can't come to the table right now because they're in the middle of a tough calculus problem.

SKINNY PEOPLE HAVE HOBBIES.

FAT PEOPLE HAVE SIMPLE PLEASURES.

Skinny people will do anything to keep from eating, reading, talking, sleeping, acting nice, or sitting still. The spiritual part of skinny people is virtually dead, but their muscles, bones, fibers, and tissues are about to pop. The sentence "Anyone for tennis?" was first uttered by a skinny person. Very skinny people say, "Anyone for anything?" They do not discriminate: they will glue together tongue depressors for a bird feeder.

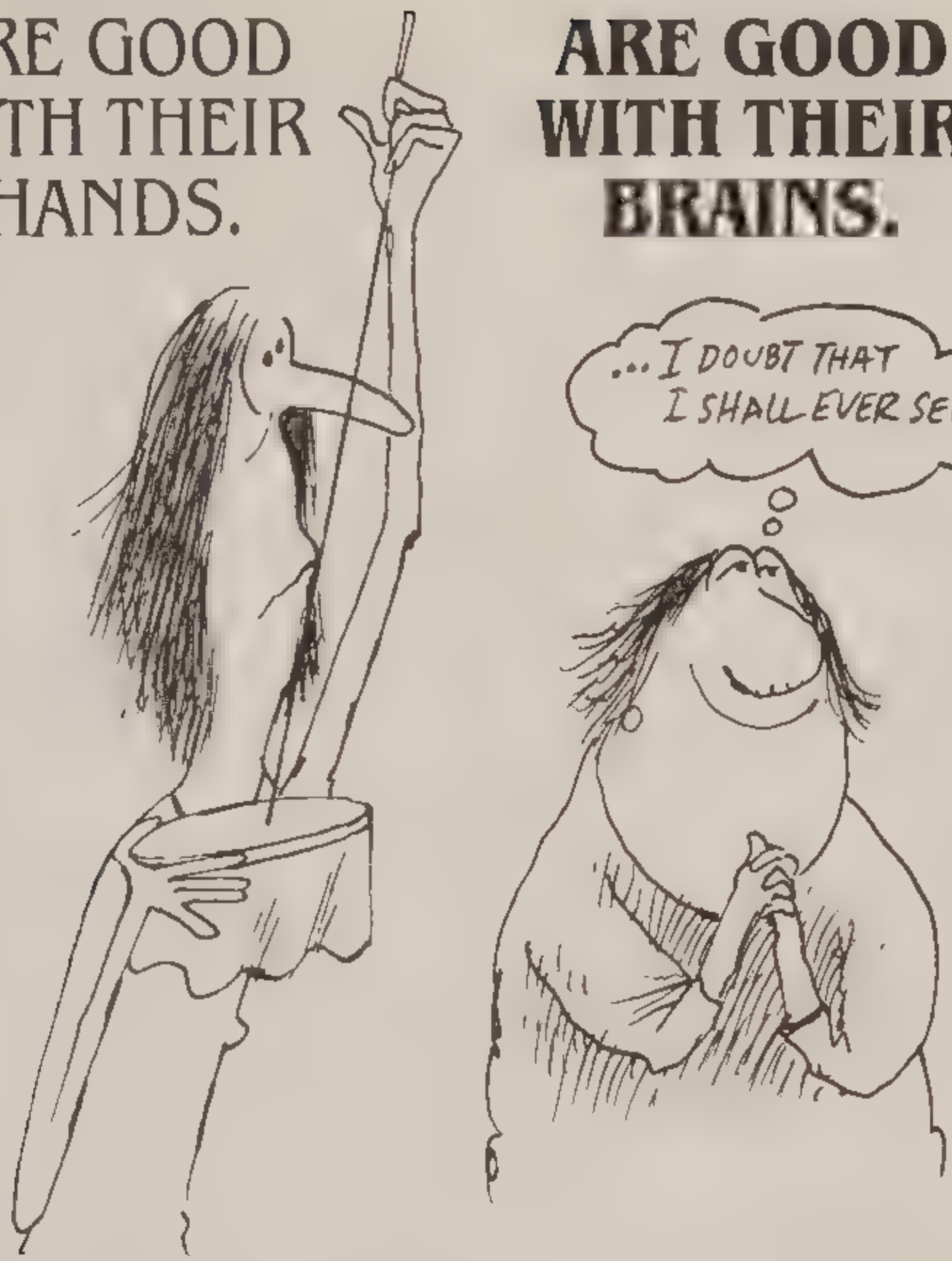
If skinny people did not have hobbies, they would blow up like balloons and splutter irritatingly and loudly all over the living room. In fact, some skinny people have been known to blow sky high if you didn't get a craft kit in their hands fast enough.

Skinny people have no inner resources. They don't know the fine fat ways of filling time. Skinny people think they have to be doing something constructive, like caulking or woodcutting. Fat people don't. Fat people have low standards for time-filling. They will just sit around for hours, reading Milton and nibbling popcorn until it's time for supper. Fat people can stare out windows, contemplate their navels, bite their toenails, idly pluck lintballs from the rug, study shafts of sunlight, doze, pray, drift, or drink.

But fat people are best at lolling. Lolling is a high art. Skinny people don't know how to loll. Furthermore, lolling makes skinny people even more nervous than usual. Everytime a skinny person catches a fat person lolling, the skinny person will try to sign up the fat person for a course in accounting or something. The fat person should then tell the skinny person he can take his course and put it where the sun don't shine.

SKINNY PEOPLE ARE GOOD WITH THEIR HANDS.

FAT PEOPLE ARE GOOD WITH THEIR BRAINS.

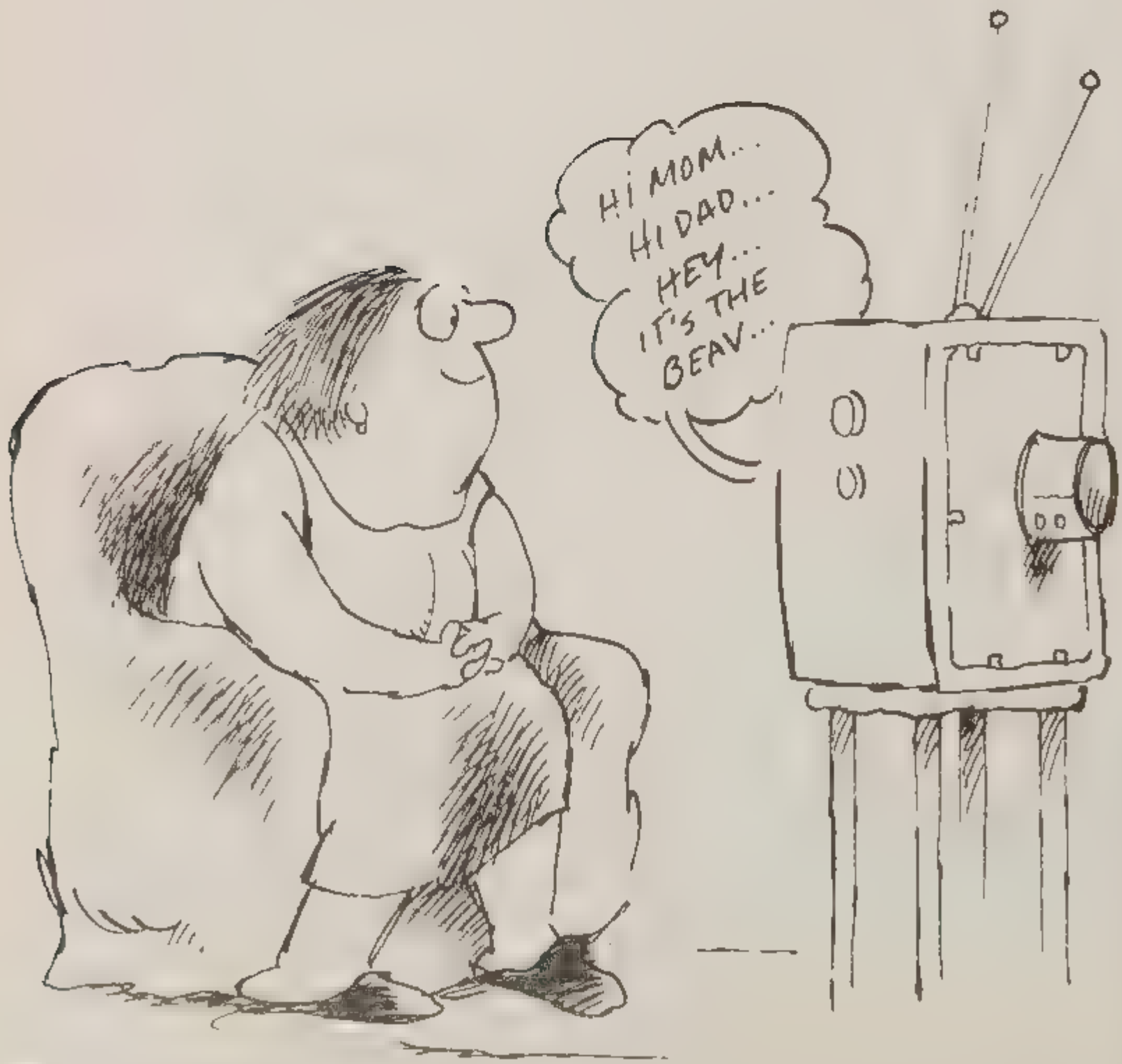


Skinny people are good with their hands. Skinny people sign up for SHOP or COMPUTERS or MECHANICS. Fat people sign up for Chaucer.

Skinny people are too fastidious to occupy their hands with something useful, like picking their noses or scratching or copping a feel. They have to make things. The things skinny people make are usually ugly and collect dust. Skinny people give these ugly things (string pictures of owls, amaryllis holders, ceramic frogs with plastic Tuffys in their mouths)

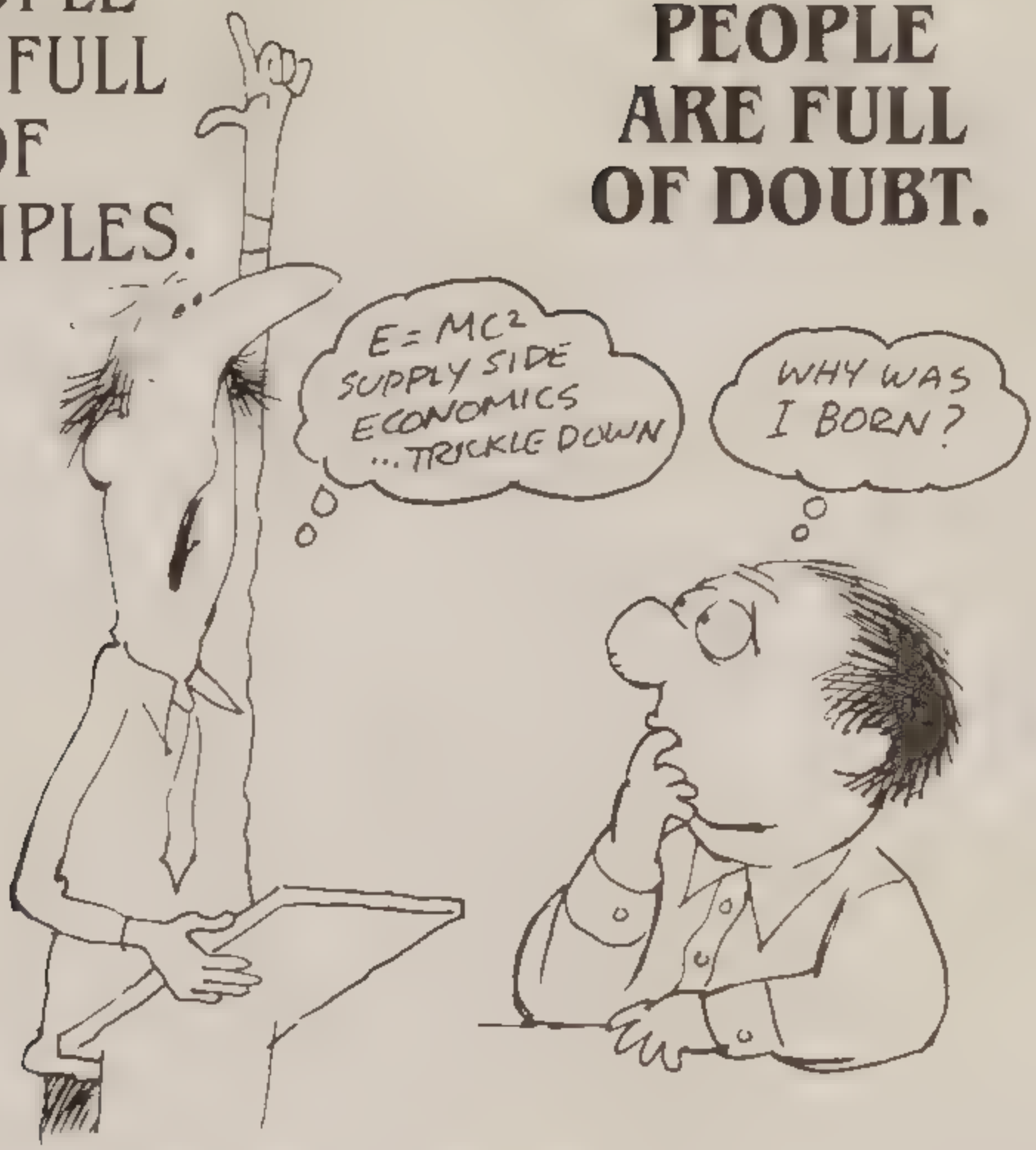
to their fat friends who don't want them but are too nice to say no. Fat people never give anybody stuff like this. Fat people give food, money, and liquor: they don't want anybody to have another thing in the house to have to clean.

Fat people get so tired of skinny people stirring around all the time, doing dumb things with their hands. Fat people wish skinny people would just sit still and hush. Fat people want to watch the rest of "Leave It to Beaver" in peace.



SKINNY PEOPLE ARE FULL OF PRINCIPLES.

FAT PEOPLE ARE FULL OF DOUBT.



Skinny people are so skinny that principles are all they can ingest and digest. Principles are much thinner than truth. Skinny people are chock full of formulae, maxims, precepts, proverbs, rules, regulations, laws, equations, logic, and reason. They haven't got room on the inside for paradox, mystery, complexity, sin, depth, insight, wit, and doubt.

Skinny people are totally undone by the huge implications of truth. They fight the truth with every taut fiber of their beings. They cut truth down to size with every reasonable explanation in the book. Skinny people are always going to a book to look things up. If they can't find the answer in a book, they get very jittery. Fat people never go to books to find an answer: they go to examine the questions.

Skinny people are scared to live in a world where every question doesn't have an answer, every equation doesn't balance. Fat people are scared too. But they don't try to diminish the fear by diminishing the truth. Fat people are fat enough to take it. They have ways of coping, for example, hot-fudge sundaes.

Skinny people are mostly interested in what shows, not what is hidden. They figure if you can't see, taste, hear, touch, or look it up, then it must not exist. Fat people disagree: they think what is hidden may be the main thing. But they aren't sure. So they wait humbly upon the revelation of truth: this is what fat people are doing when they make swirled designs in their hot-fudge sundaes.

Fat people think it's sort of poignant and sweet the way skinny people crave answers. Sometimes fat people will even give a desperate skinny person the answer he wants to hear, just to keep him happy. Usually, the answer has a number in it.

SKINNY PRINCIPLES

1. Never go overboard.
2. Look out for number one.
3. Never get caught.
4. If you get caught, deny, deny, deny.
5. You can't be too skinny or too mean.
6. Idle conversation or any conversation is a waste of time.
7. Hard work will cure anything.
8. It's all in your head.
9. Don't get all emotional.
10. Keep your feet on the ground and your head out of the clouds.

FAT PRINCIPLES

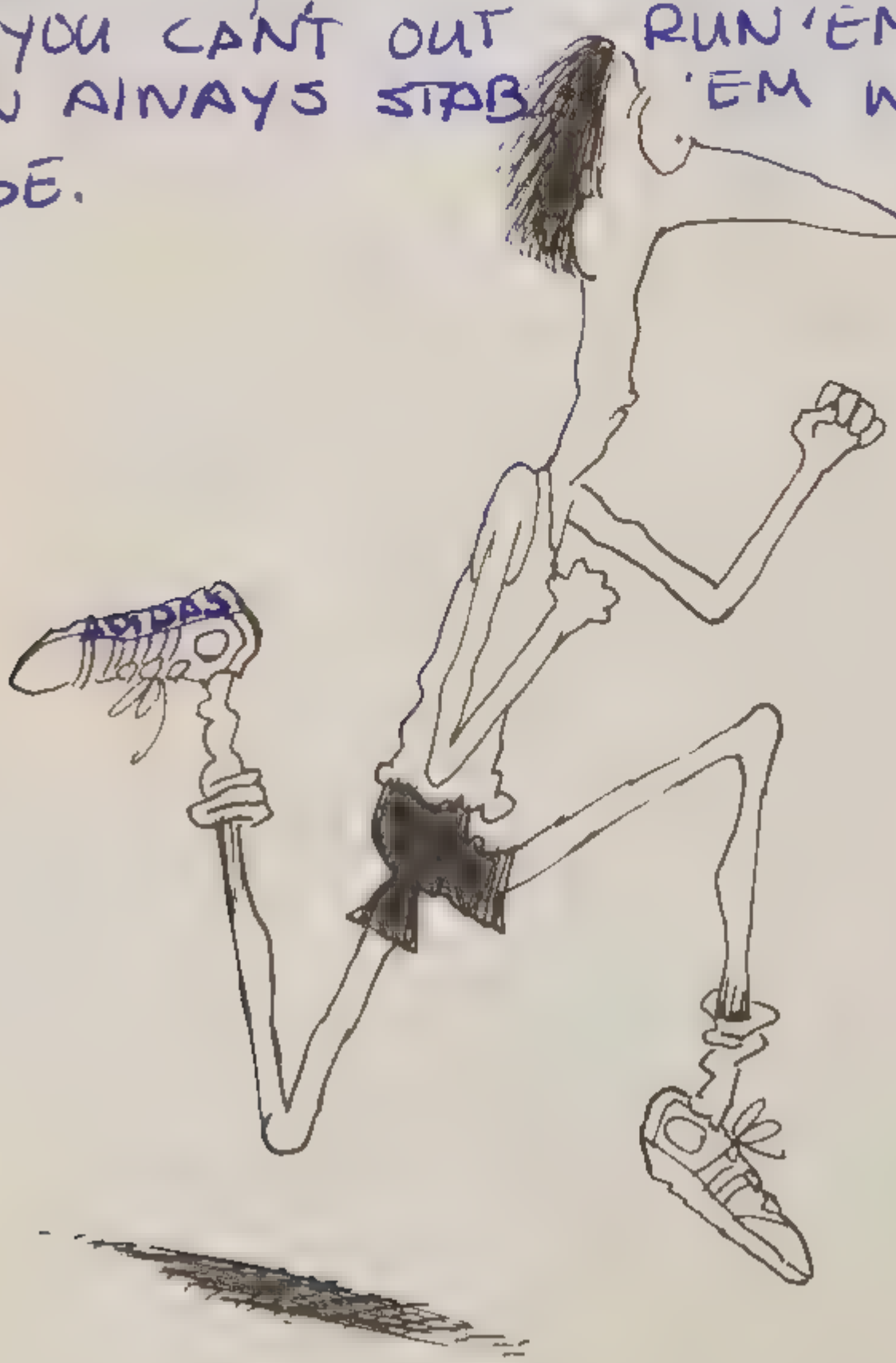
Sorry, fat people don't have any. But they have some damn good questions. See page 36.

SKINNY FACTS, AND EASY ANSWERS

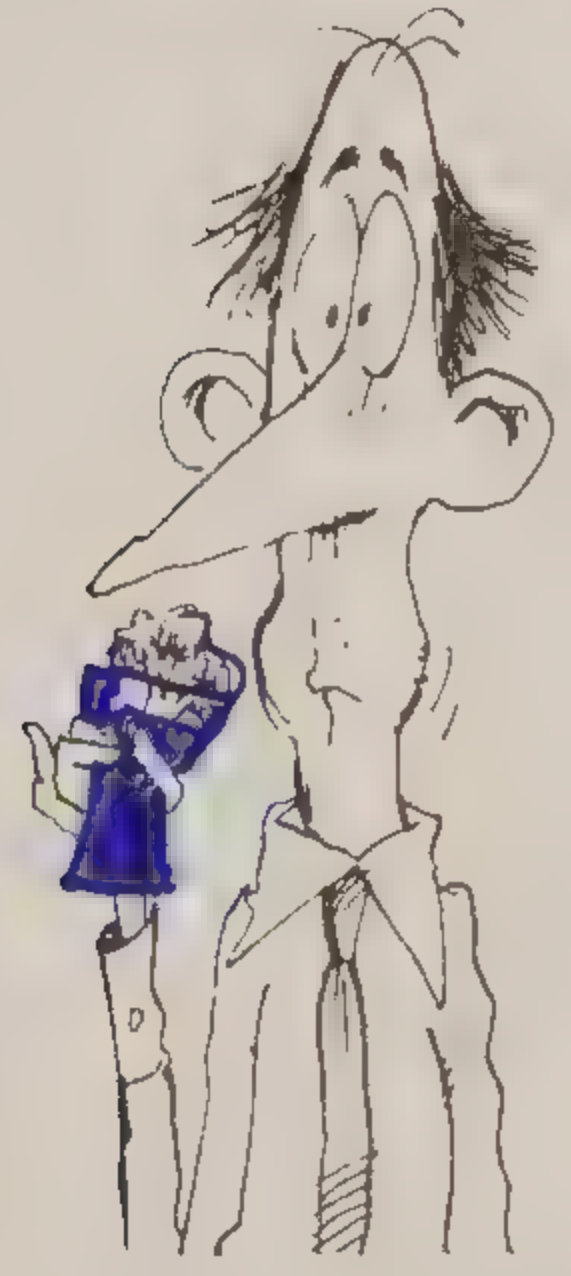
1. It's simple. Three-thousand five hundred calories make up one pound. Ergo, if you take in more than 3500 calories, you'll gain weight.
2. It's simple. If you'd just eat three squares a day and leave off cream and sugar in your coffee, you'd lose weight.
3. You have such a pretty face. If you'd just take off a few pounds, you'd look great.
4. You wouldn't be suicidal if you'd join the Y or get a hobby.
5. The key thing, as I see it, in this poverty thing is to have all poor children open savings accounts so they can learn the value of a dollar. Then when they grow up, they won't be mooching off the government.

6. I know you didn't ask for my opinion, but I'm just telling you for your own good: if you tried electrolysis and got rid of that unsightly facial hair, you wouldn't be half bad-looking.
7. If you've got your health, you've got everything.
8. The way I see it, if everybody ran around the block once a day, we wouldn't need all these psychiatrists.
9. I know it's none of my business, but if you shave under your arms, you cut down on odor by 50%.
10. The key thing is to keep your system free of impurities and don't read so much. Reading clogs up your esophagus.

MIKE POOSKY IN TRAINING FOR NEXT SEASON'S ROCKY IV. IF YOU CANT OUT PUNCH 'EM YOU CAN OUT RUN 'EM. AND IF YOU CAN'T OUT RUN 'EM, YOU CAN AINAYS STAB 'EM WITH YOUR NOSE.



SKINNY PEOPLE ARE PARTY ~~POOPERS~~. YERS!



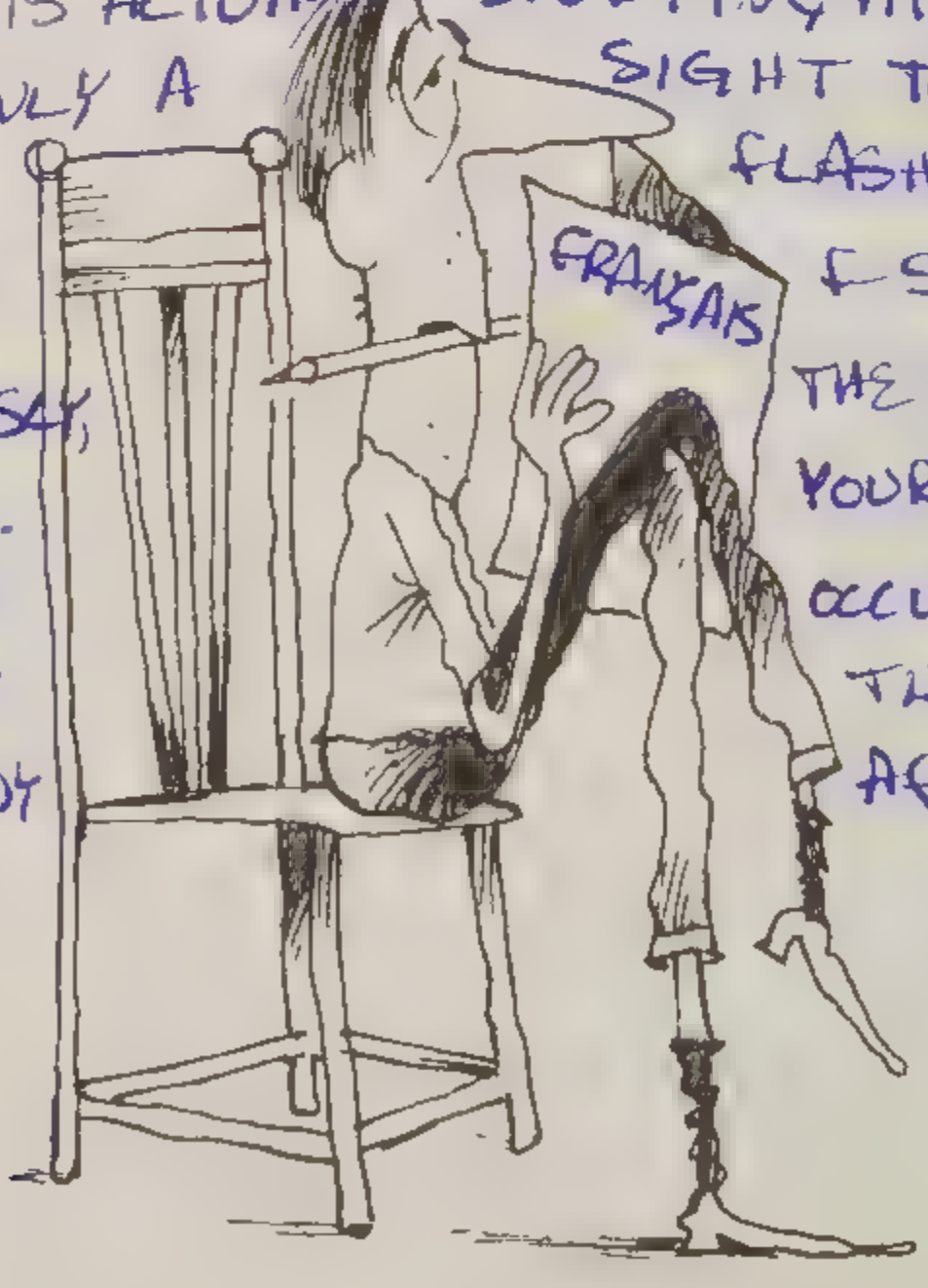
The basic premises of a party — food, drink, conversation, fun — are all ~~out~~ of the range of the average skinny person. ~~Skinny~~ people are drags. Fortunately, they are easy to get around. You wink around them, giggle around them, discover truth around them. In fact, most ~~skinny~~ people are so ~~skinny~~ you can't ~~even notice~~ the~~m~~ at the party.

The first thing you do with a skinny person at a party is give him a ~~small chump of cauliflower~~ to munch on and ease him ~~out of~~ the main flow of traffic in the living and dining rooms. Put him on a side porch or down in the basement. He ~~doesn't~~ need to be near the ~~food and~~ drink. ~~Even~~ if you have a steaming platter of shrimp or a dip that's out of this world, he'll ~~won't~~ eat it. After all, before he came he had half an American cheese sandwich with mayo, a glass of sweet milk, and an Oreo ~~without~~ the creamy filling (~~which makes him nauseous~~). He's ~~stuffed~~.

But you have to keep him busy, else he'll come into the living room and start talking about Right to Life or his last electric bill. Give him a crossword puzzle or a computer game. Then go off and leave him in a little straight-back chair in the corner. He'll be fine as long as he doesn't complete the crossword puzzle. If he does, you'll have to find something else to occupy him. Good alternatives are to get him to fix your leaky faucet, put him with another skinny person, or pay your children to challenge him to a game of Parcheesi. Do not set him to work on a craft. He will finish the wall-hanging in no time and give it to you to hang over your mantle. Skinny people bustle briskly. Fat people keep very, very still.

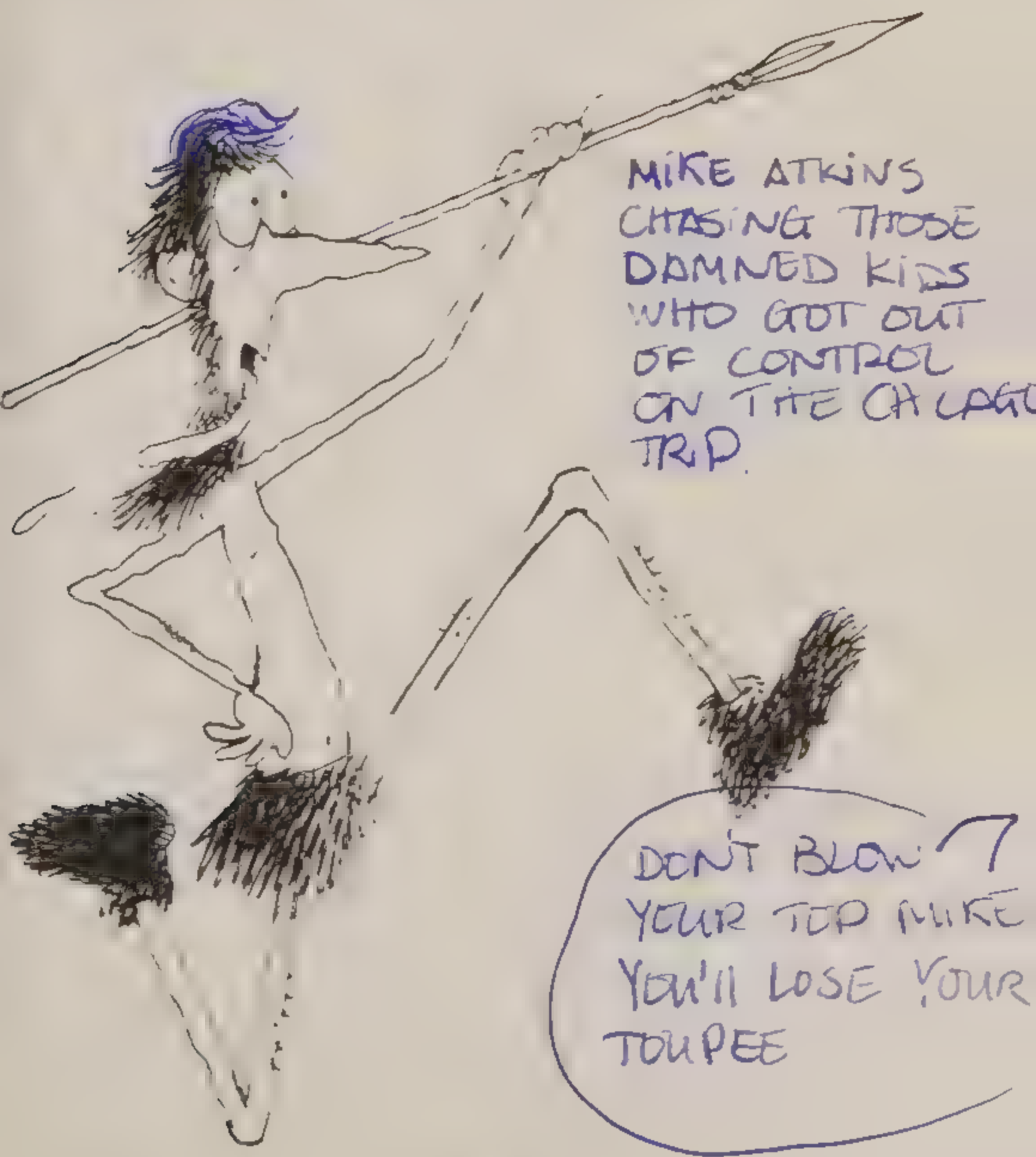
Skinny people have an energy problem: they make more energy than they can use in a standard 24-hour day. Their specific dynamic action is out of whack. Skinny people are like protein. Your typical hard-boiled egg has seventy-five calories, but it takes a hundred calories to eat it and digest it. See. Out of whack.

NOW SEE THIS - A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OCCURENCE-
ANDY ROTH IS ACTUALLY STUDYING HIS FRENCH!
THIS IS TRULY A SIGHT TO BEHOLD!
ARE YOUR FLASHES READY?
HAVE YOUR F-STOPS BEEN
SET? OBVIOUSLY, THE POOR KID
IS STONED. YOUR BASIC
EVERY DAY OCCURENCE.
BETTER GET THOSE CRIB
NOTES READY AFTER ALL!



Anyway, skinny people have all this energy excess and no place to put it in the modern world. Skinny cave men ran over the plains for three or four days trying to kill one gazelle for supper. Kept them out of the way. But modern skinnies are burning up with energy. Their brains are too small to drain off any of it. Their hearts are too cold to need it. Their imaginations are too bland to use it. You don't need energy to get a kick out of elevator music.

So what skinny people do all the time is bustle briskly. They are always rubbing their bony little hands together and looking for something else to tackle. The last thing in the


MIKE ATKINS CHASING THOSE DAMNED KIDS WHO GOT OUT OF CONTROL ON THE CHEAP TRIP.
DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP MIKE YOU'LL LOSE YOUR TOUPEE

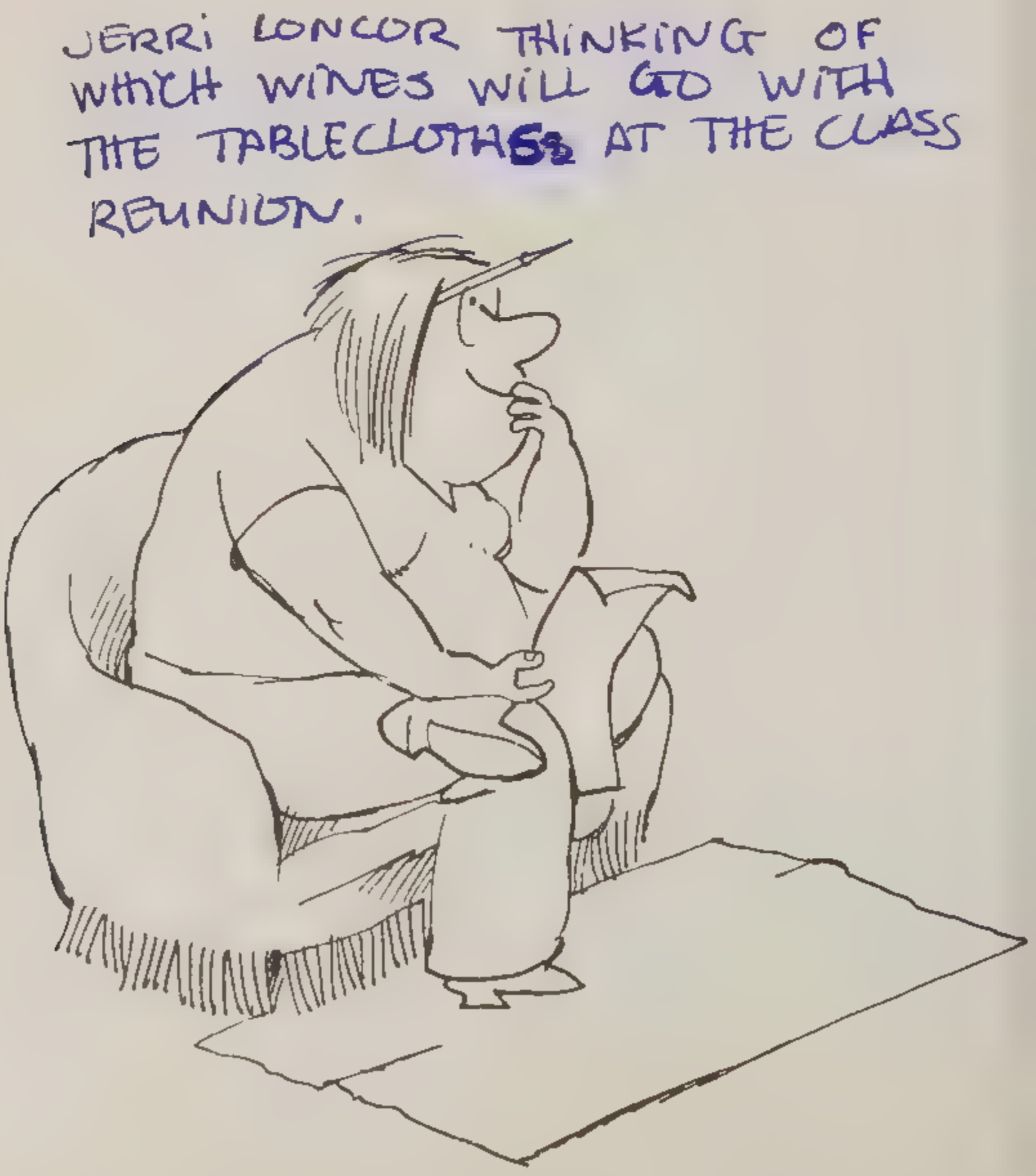
world fat people want is something else to tackle. They are just trying to drag themselves through what needs doing so they can fix themselves a big bowl of pinto beans with onions and a beer and sit down to rest. Fat people conserve energy for only the most special occasions: laughter after a good joke or story, weddings, long conversations, and, of course, serious eating. I knew a skinny clerk in a clothing store once who spent every spare minute straightening the socks; we fat clerks spent every spare minute sitting on Arrow shirt boxes in the stock room, giggling and eating fried pies and cheeseburgers.

SKINNY
PEOPLE
CRAVE CHORES
LIKE A FAT
PERSON
CRAVES
TWINKIES.

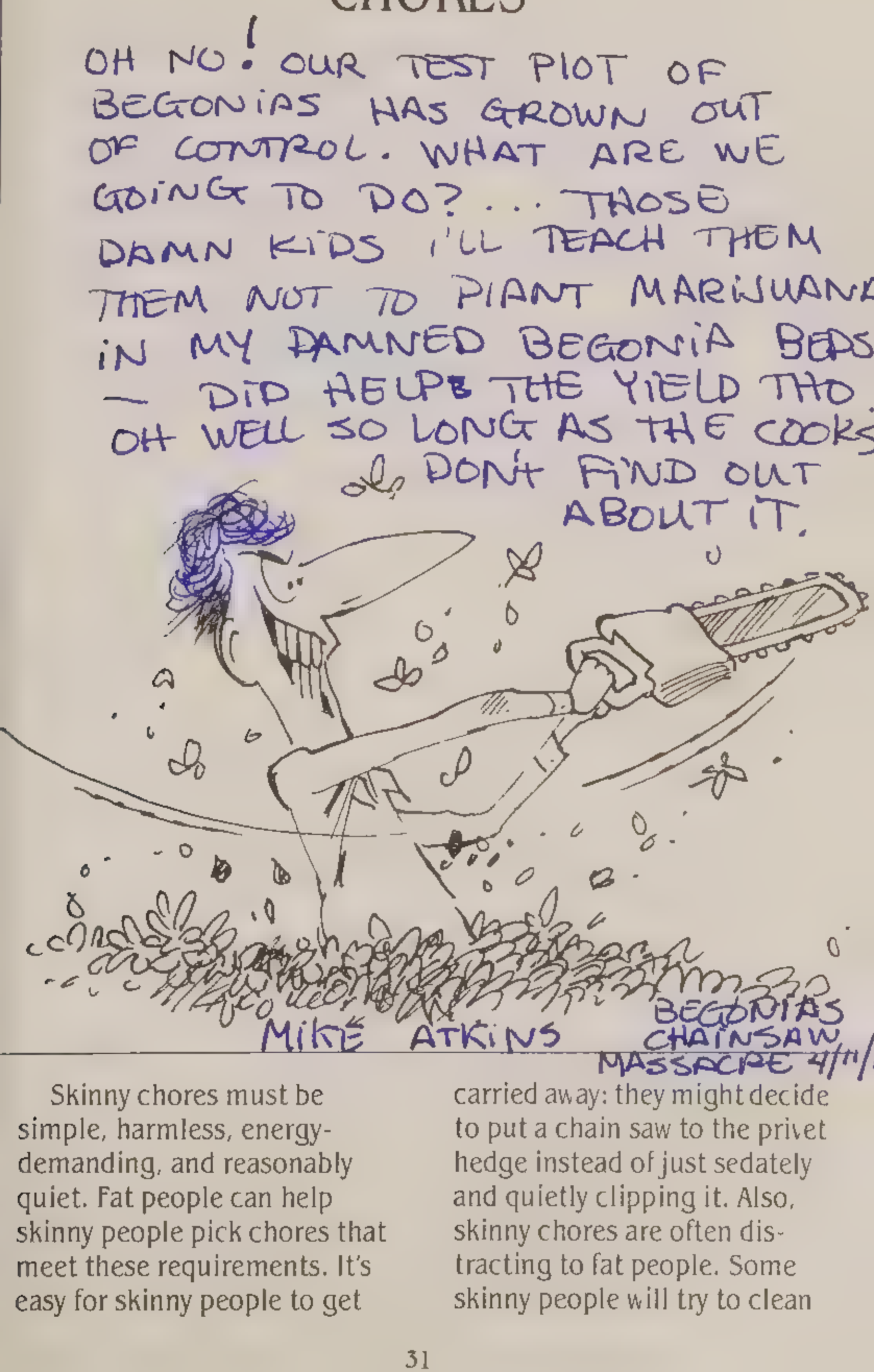
NEWSFLASH:

BECKY BOLIBAUGH
FINALLY CAUGHT THAT
DICK SHE ALWAYS
WANTED.

But in this modern age, there are only so many chores to go around. The average condo has maybe seven, maximum. Unfortunately, since fat people are the brains of the family, they are forced to spend a hell of a lot of time thinking up new chores for skinny people to do. But fat people are very quick: they can come up with five chores per hour while they are eating, conversing wittily and ironically, and watching "Masterpiece Theater" all at the same time. If it weren't for fat people languidly enumerating possible chores for restless skinnies to whip through, skinny people would probably explode due to overloaded specific dynamic actions. Then skinny people would splatter all over the kitchen, and fat people would have to mop them up. This would never do.



SKINNY CHORES


OH NO! OUR TEST PIOT OF BEGONIAS HAS GROWN OUT OF CONTROL. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? ... THOSE DAMN KIDS I'LL TEACH THEM THEM NOT TO PIANT MARIJUANA IN MY DAMNED BEGONIA BEDS! — DID HELPS THE YIELD THO. OH WELL SO LONG AS THE COOKS DONt FIND OUT ABOUT IT.
MIKE ATKINS
BEGONIAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 4/11/83

Skinny chores must be simple, harmless, energy-demanding, and reasonably quiet. Fat people can help skinny people pick chores that meet these requirements. It's easy for skinny people to get carried away: they might decide to put a chain saw to the privet hedge instead of just sedately and quietly clipping it. Also, skinny chores are often distracting to fat people. Some skinny people will try to clean

out a desk while a fat person is sitting at it. I knew a skinny person who would whisk away the plate and glass before the fat person finished dinner.

Save up skinny chores so that on Saturday morning, when the fit comes over the nearest skinny person, you can give him something simple, time-consuming, and far away to do. Good choices are sorting hardware parts, pulling up dandelions by the roots, bringing the family scrapbooks up to date, licking stamps, clipping coupons, or, of course, straightening the sock drawers. Do not put electric trimmers, edgers, or lawnmowers in a skinny person's power: he will level the whole yard, in the interest of efficiency, of course.

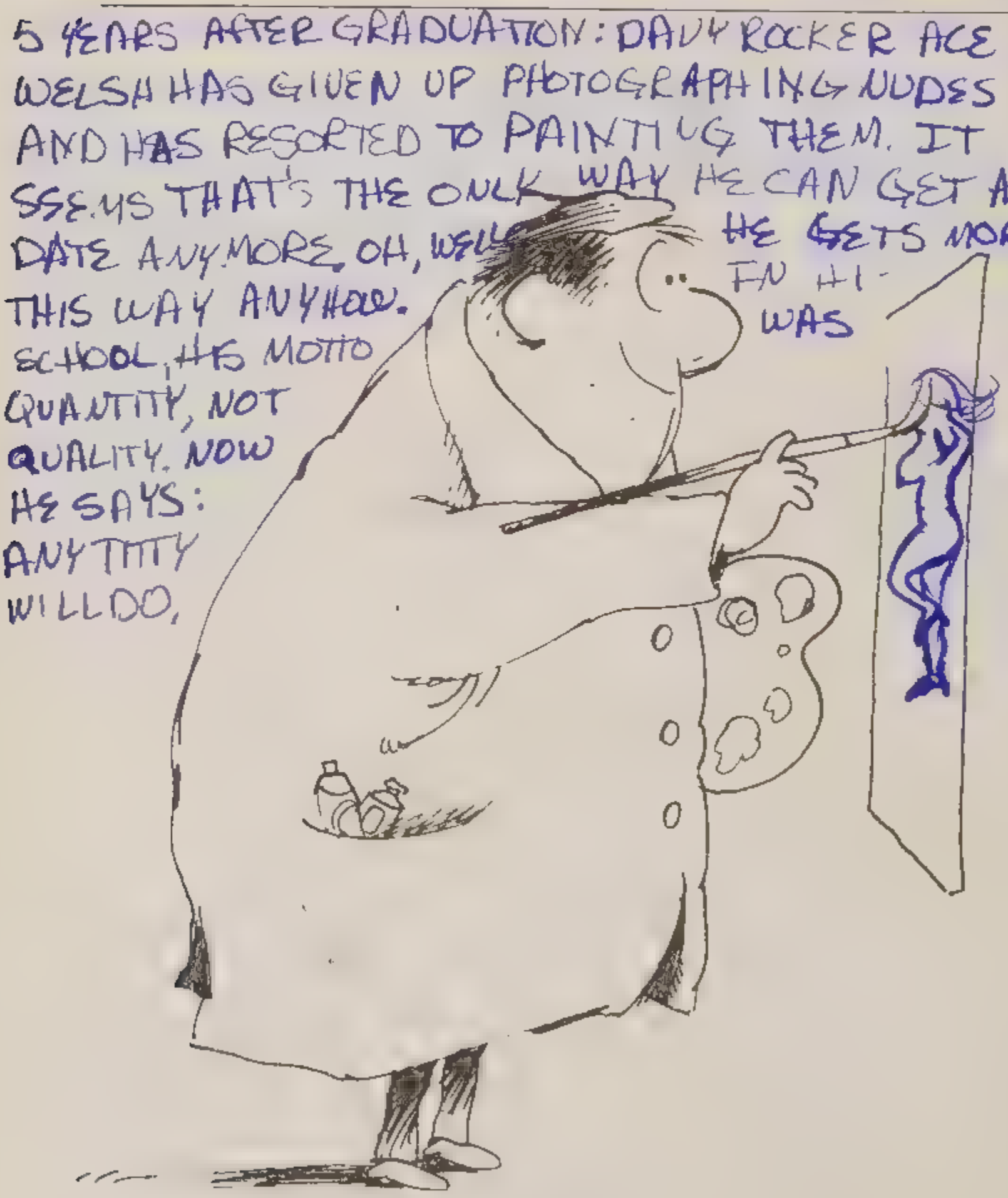
SKINNY PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.

FAT PEOPLE AREN'T SURE OF THE QUESTIONS.

Skinny people come out of the tradition of mathematicians and game-show contestants. Fat people plump themselves down in the lofty company of philosophers, saints, artists.

Skinny answers are "yes," "no," or a number. The one answer skinny people never give is "I don't know."

Of course, the things skinny people have the answers to are not the real questions. Skinny people know the answers to things you can look up in the dictionary or encyclopedia. Fat people have the brains to comprehend an entire problem and the common sense to ponder it over a beef Wellington dinner.


5 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION: DAVY ROCKER ACE WELSH HAS GIVEN UP PHOTOGRAPHING NUDES AND HAS RESORTED TO PAINTING THEM. IT SEEMS THAT'S THE ONLY WAY HE CAN GET A DATE ANYMORE. OH, WELL
HE GETS MORE IN HIS WAS
THIS WAY ANYHOW. SCHOOL, HIS MOTTO QUANTITY, NOT QUALITY. NOW HE SAYS: ANY TITTY WILL DO.

QUESTIONS:

SKINNY ANSWERS

(You guess the question.)

...Ponce de Leon

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE ...July 4, 1776

he year masterbation ...1492 was discovered.

re candle wicks imported ...yes from Japan?

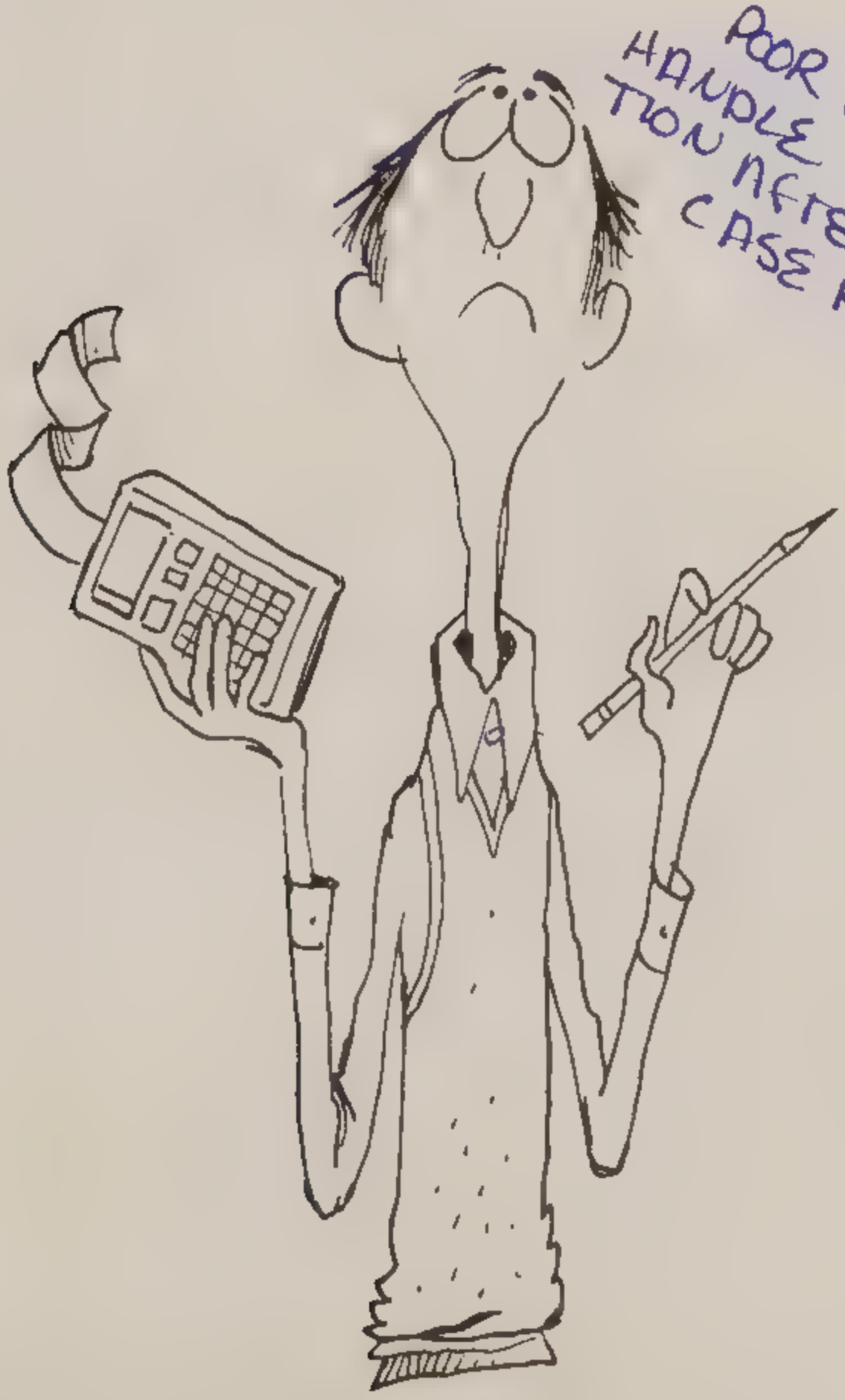
re Dolly Parton's boobs... no real?

WHAT HAS ...5,280 feet? A CRIPPLED CENTIPEDE

STEVE FOWLER'S I.Q. ...zero

DISTANCE BETWEEN DAD'S ...93 million miles AND N.Y CITY

WHAT HAS ...3,500 calories? 1 KERNEL OF POPCORN



REAL FAT QUESTIONS

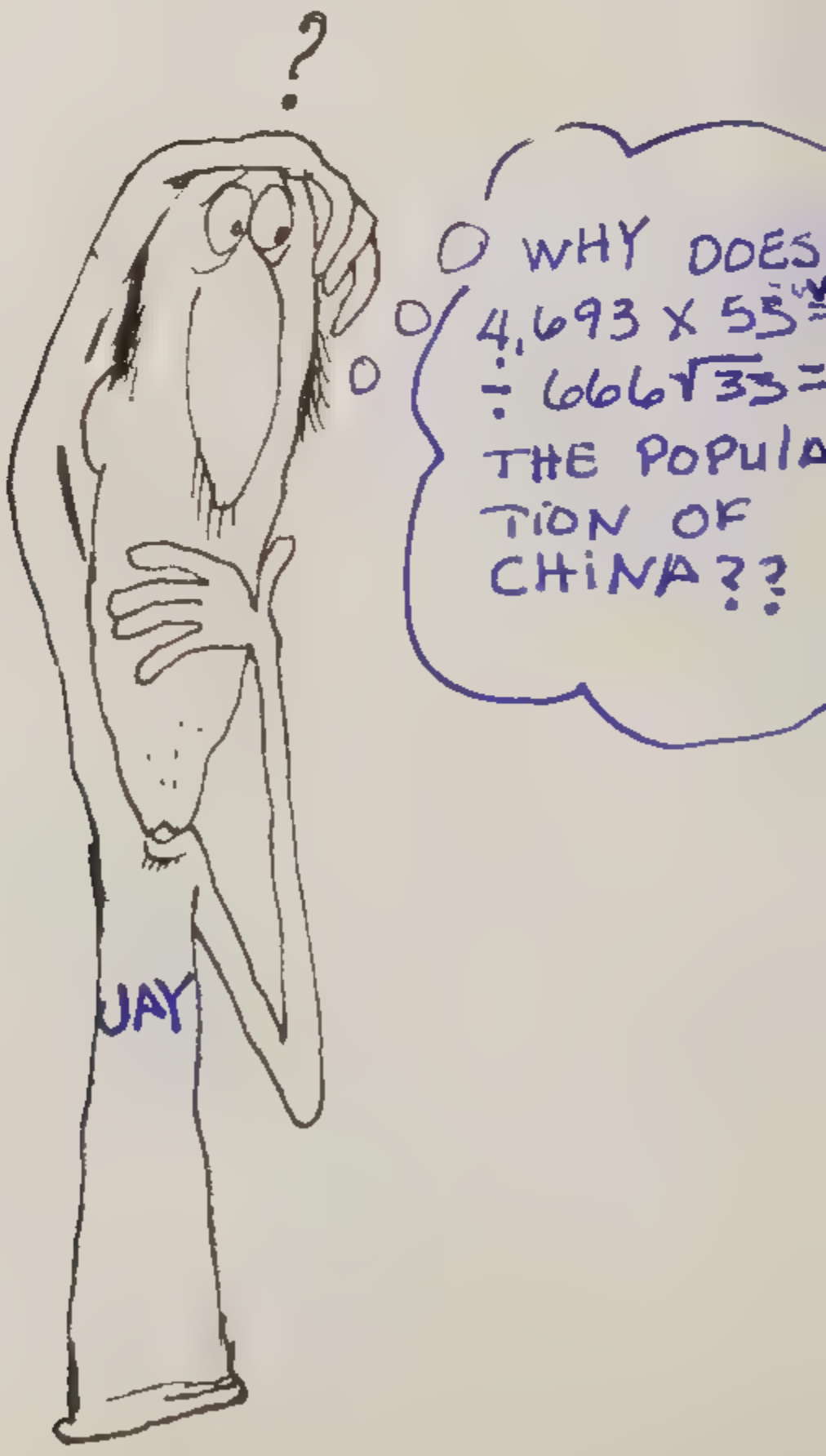
- . . . What is truth?
- . . . Is there life after death, and will they have take-out pizza?
- . . . Why was I born?
- . . . Is love real? What good is it? Is it better than bagels and cream cheese?
- . . . What shall I do to be saved, and am I worth saving?

SKINNY PEOPLE DON'T GET IT.

WON'T THAT SHOOT MY CAMPAIGN ALL TO HELL!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEIR FACES WHEN WE TURN THE JR. HIGH INTO A THERMO-NUCLEAR WASTE-LAND!!
MARVIN ANDERSON

Skinny people have trouble with jokes, both telling them and understanding them. Skinny people haven't suffered enough. It takes a whole lot of bad living and pain to get a sense of humor. Sometimes even a "little moron" joke can be too much for skinny people to grasp. Be gentle with them. Start with a light limerick or a small pun, something skinny people can manage.

Also, skinny people have a small repertoire. They know one or two jokes they tell over and over through the years. You get so you just let your eyes glaze over and go into a trance when a skinny person starts telling his two jokes. All skinny jokes are incredibly long, a paradox. The skinnier the person, the longer the joke. I know a skinny person



who tells this one joke about the horse with the green legs. This joke always starts at cocktails and lasts way the hell to the other side of dinner. It is not funny, unless you are very, very drunk.

Actually, fat people like wit better than they like jokes. But when a fat person tells a joke, you can count on the joke to be very short and very dirty and, of course, a real thigh-slapper.

Skinny people will put you in a slot. Fat people think human beings are too wide, too deep, too tall for slots.

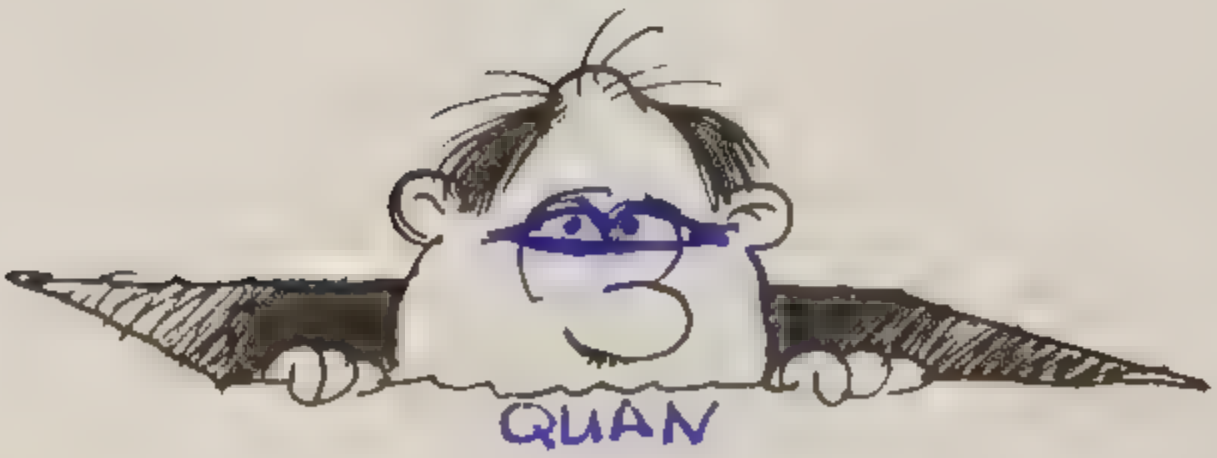
Skinny people get this bad habit of slotting from their narrow minds, computer training, and tendency toward research. If skinny people can slot you, they can deal with you. Of complex human beings, skinny people will say,

"Oh yeah, the fat guy."
"Oh yeah, the queer."
"Oh yeah, the one with the big tits."
"Oh yeah, the manic-depressive."
...etc.

If you do not want to be put in a slot, stay away from skinny people. Even as you shake their hands and introduce yourself to them, a convenient label is forming in their minds.

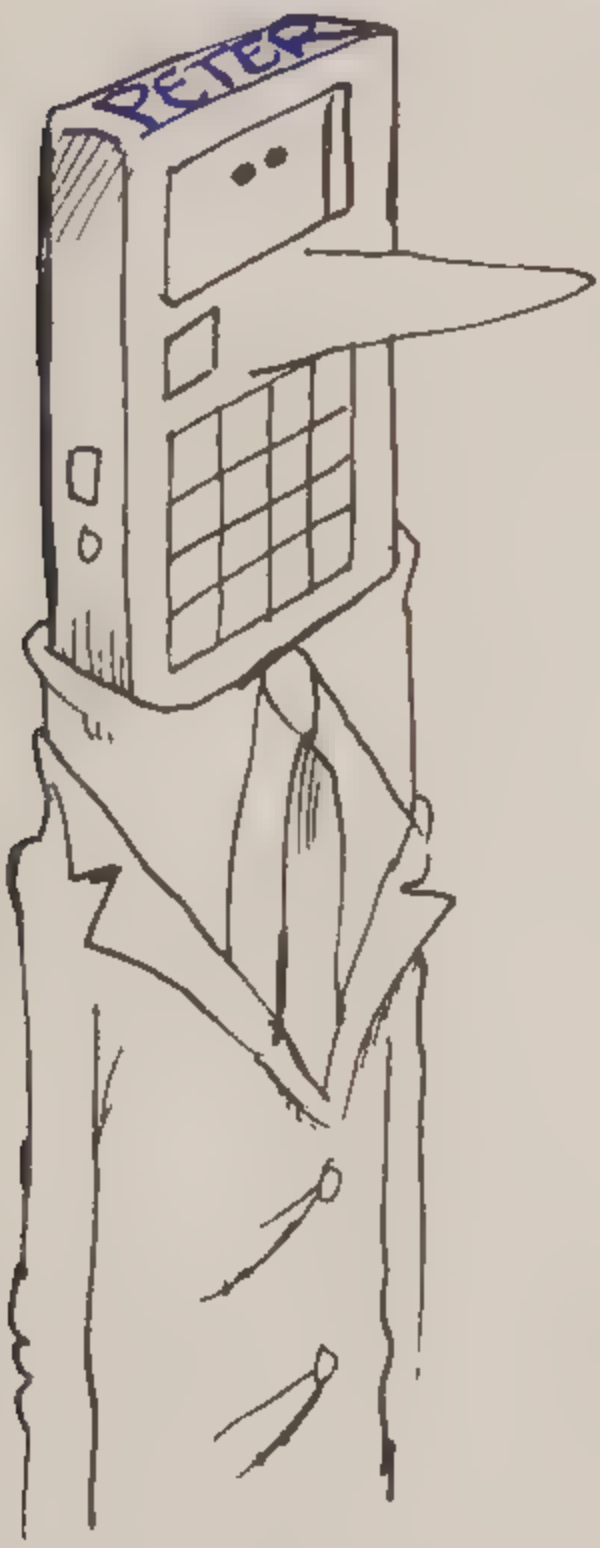
Fat people don't think there's a label or a slot big enough to hold a single human being. Fat people are label-shy. If you want to see a fat person flinch, toss a label at him or his friends.

Fat people are into wholeness, not categories. They will eat the whole thing, and they will let you be the whole thing.



SKINNY PEOPLE ARE CALCULATORS.

FAT PEOPLE ARE BELIEVERS.



&

Skinny people lack the capacity for faith. If skinny people can't categorize it, answer it, schedule it, or figure it, they reject it. This unfortunate trait cuts off skinny people from virtue, love, hope, imagination, history, poetry, philosophy, wit, paradox, mystery. The irony is that this tendency even cuts off skinny people from their beloved logic, because it is reasonable and logical to assume that love is real since fat people have so long put up with skinny people.

If you want to hurt a skinny person's non-feelings, tell him he's being illogical. He will nearly die.

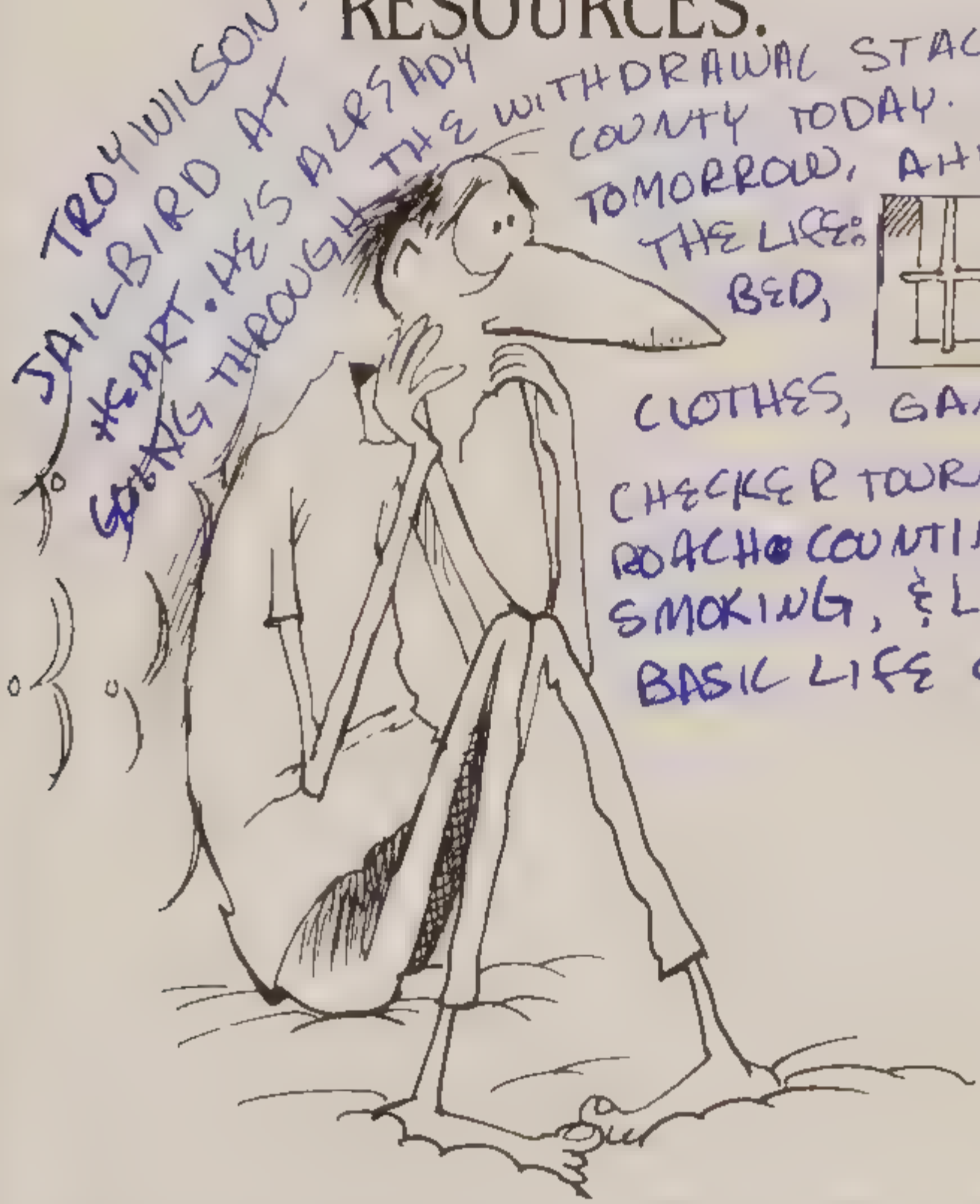
SKINNY PEOPLE ALWAYS
DAMN IT PAM, i TOLD YOU i LIKE BEER With my supper AND IF YOU DONT BRING ME SUME WEILL HAVE TO GET SEPARATED AGAIN !!
Mark B.
PAM H.

. . . had for lunch what you have fixed for supper and will complain loudly about the repetition. Fat people would never complain. Fat people don't mind having meatloaf twice in a row. Fat people love meatloaf.

. . . aren't hungry the night you fix extra ravioli. You fixed extra ravioli because the last time you had ravioli, the skinny person asked for seconds and complained because you never fix enough ravioli and he really loves ravioli. When the skinny person is not hungry, you can not pry his mouth open with a crowbar.

. . . have a highly specific, almost exquisitely specific, craving at two AM for something that is never in the house: freshly squeezed orange juice or smoked salmon or canned fruit cocktail. Skinny people will not take a substitute, either. They would rather starve, disrupt the whole family, or pout than tolerate a substitute.

SKINNY PEOPLE HAVE SKINNY RESOURCES.


TROY WILSON: JAILBIRD AT HEART. HE'S ALREADY GOING THROUGH THE WITHDRAWAL STAGE. MAHING COUNTY TODAY. ARCATRAZ TOMORROW. AHH, THAT'S THE LIFE:
BED,
FREE
BOARD
CLOTHES, GANG BANGS,
CHECKER TOURNAMENTS,
ROACH COUNTING &
SMOKING, & LIVING YOUR
BASIC LIFE OF EASE.

Skinny people are like computers; they break down and can't be fixed. That is why skinny people are always ending up like Tony Perkins in *Psycho,* sitting in a chair in the middle of a padded cell and wearing a dress with a fly crawling up his nose.

Fat people bounce back. They have more padding. That's why you never see Falstaff cracking up. That's why Santa shows up even in bad years with lots of blizzards and Republicans in the atmosphere. That's why you can't keep a fat person

down. Of course fat people have their problems. In fact, they have more and bigger problems than skinny people have, mainly because they see more, understand more, endure more. Fat people often fail. But sooner or later, dinner time arrives, the fat person sits down to a real nice meal, his eyes sparkle as he dives into a bowl of pasta, and the world seems right again. All skinny people can do when they break down is gaze into a fire, twitch, and pluck imaginary things out of the air.

Nothing can cure a broken-down skinny person, not even chicken soup.

SKINNY PEOPLE MIGHT, JUST MIGHT, PUT YOU ON THEIR LIST.

FAT PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS PUT YOU ON THEIR LIST.

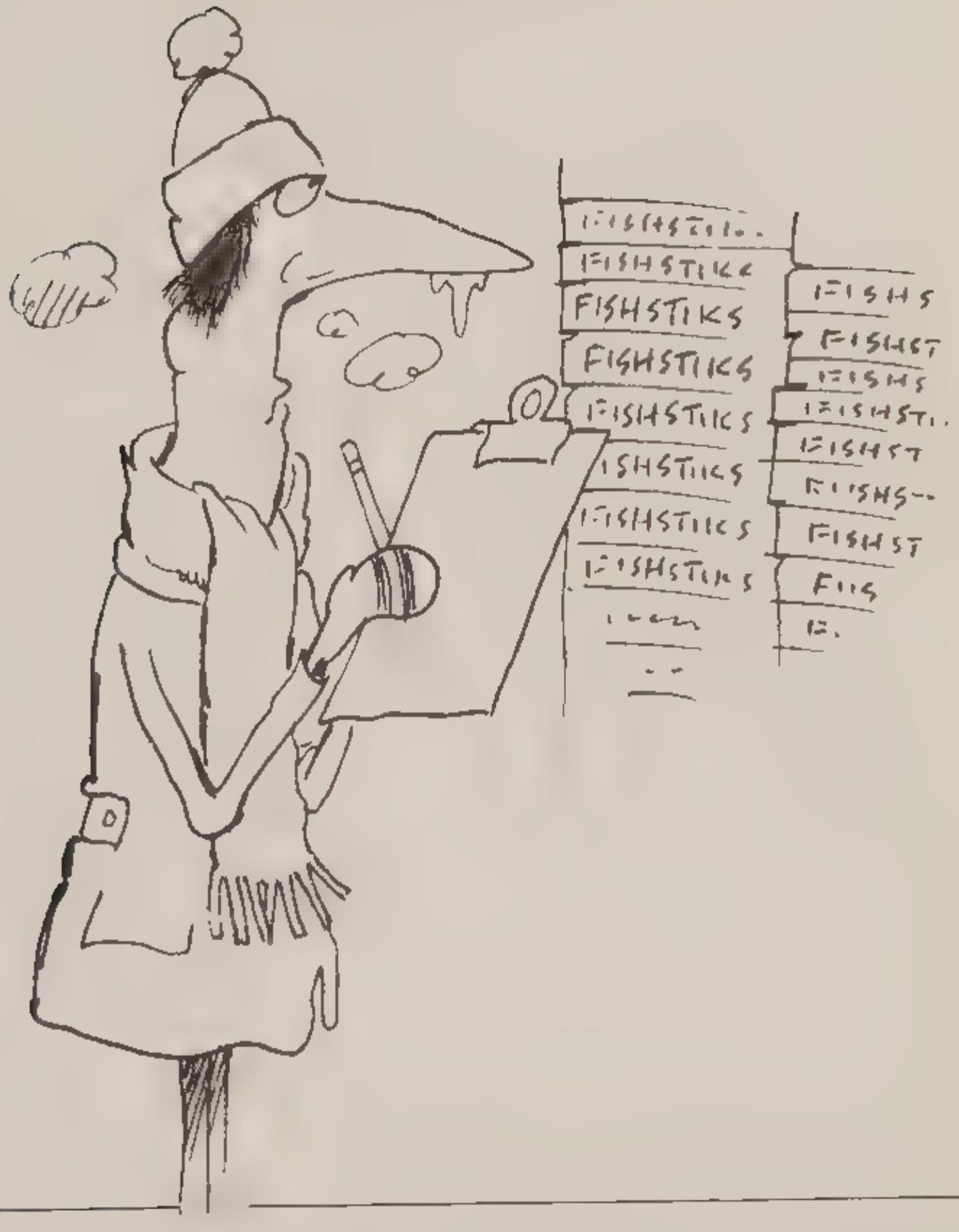
Skinny people are not exactly sure what's important and what isn't. So they make lists to remind themselves of what they have to do and the amount of time they need to do it in. These lists are very revealing to any perceptive fat person. Skinny people do not discriminate between animate and inanimate, trivial and significant. They put everything on the list. You yourself may wind up wedged between white loaf bread and yogurt. A skinny person's mother's funeral could get lost

between a round of racketball and a tomato planting.

Fat people have lists, too, but the things on the list are in order from most important to least important. Also, fat people don't have to write the list down to remember it. They live by it every day. A fat person's list puts people first, animals second, plant life third, and things fourth. The only thing that's slightly out of place on a fat person's list is food. Sometimes lasagna accidentally slides to the top, right over the needs of mean old Aunt Gertrude. But the fat person has the decency to feel guilty about it. And if Aunt Gertrude weren't so mean, he might let his lasagna get cold to visit her first.

Skinny people don't even know their list of priorities is totally screwed up. Skinny people think Aunt Gertrude *belongs* between a spark-plugs tune-up and a valve job.

SKINNY PEOPLE ARE SMART SHOPPERS.

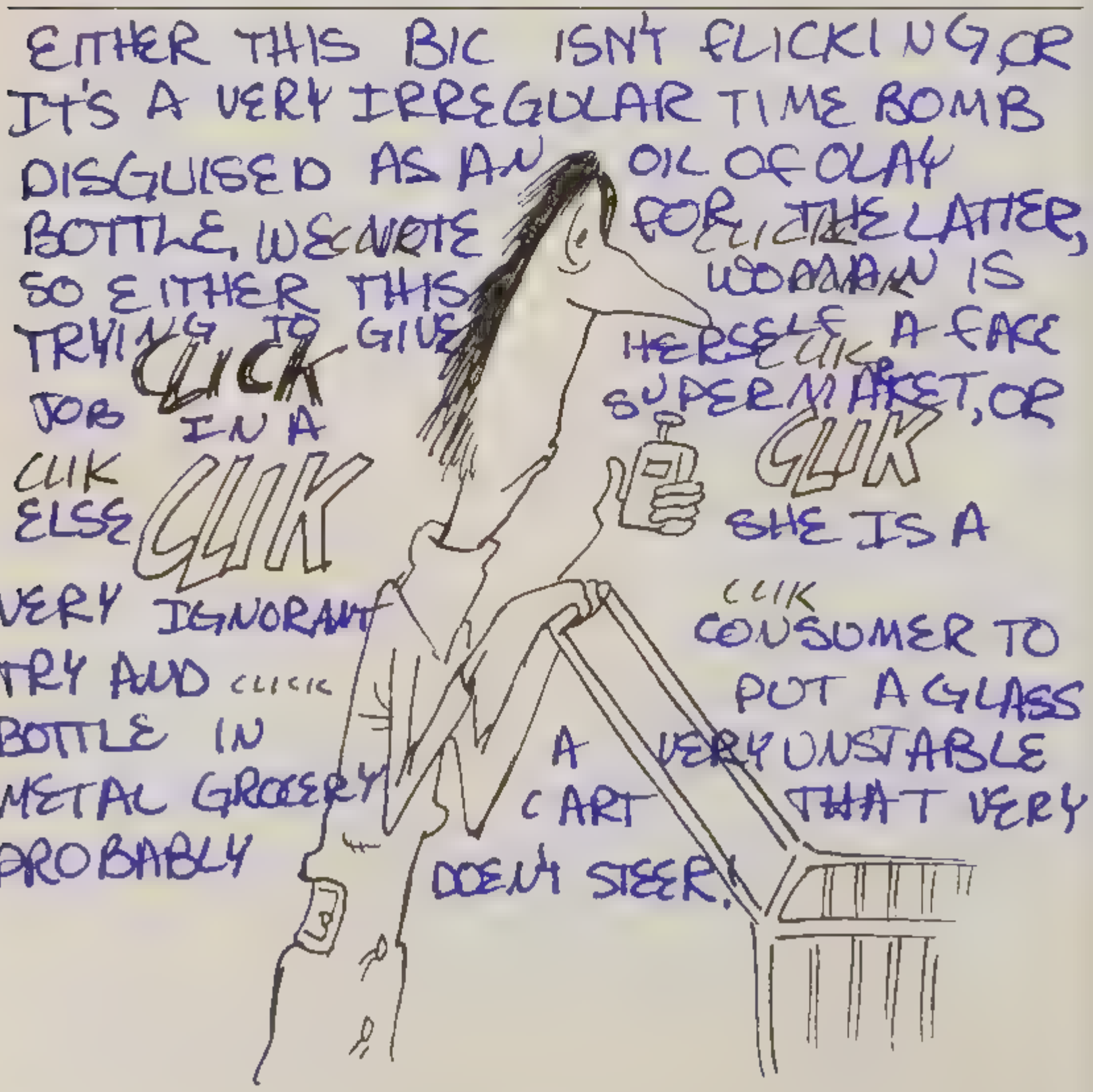


But they are dumb human beings. They will drive forty miles to get to a grocery store with low prices and large-economy sizes. They will build a special store room or buy two freezers to accommodate cases of canned peas or toilet paper and boxes of frozen fish sticks. Skinny people figure anything could happen, and they might need these big storage rooms and two freezers: Russia could come over, bombs could drop, prices could go out of sight.

Skinny people buy in quantity. They think the weight of their possessions will make up

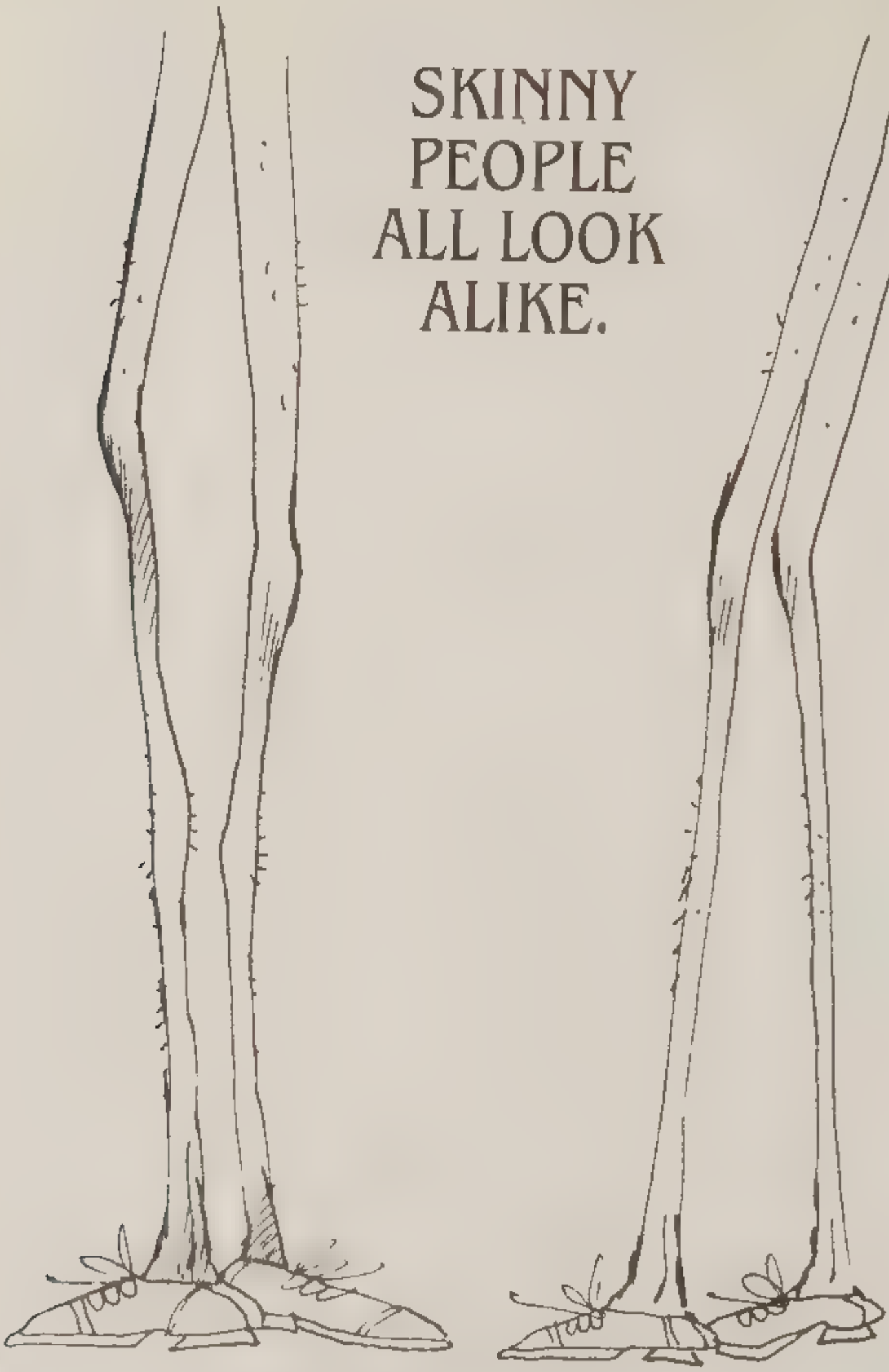
for the inadequacy of their size. But they do not buy anything expensive, filling, interesting, or fun. They do buy anything that carries a cents-off coupon, that comes from K-Mart, that nobody needs or wants, and that they can pay cash for. They have things like 35 loaves of white bread and six styrofoam coolers.

Skinny people get very mad when fat people go into small specialty food shops and come out with imported coffee and cans of smoked salmon and the best ice cream. Skinny people carry little plastic clickers when they shop and enjoy trying to stay under twenty dollars. They love to tally. Skinny people participate enthusiastically in all store games. Skinny people buy things like potholders, egg slicers, slaw choppers, pizza pans, and the large spray size of 409, which they love. Skinny people have to have these things. They need them for their bomb-proof, inflation-proof, Russian-proof storerooms.


EITHER THIS BIC ISN'T FLICKING, OR IT'S A VERY IRREGULAR TIME BOMB DISGUISED AS AN OIL OF OLAY BOTTLE. WE NOTE SO EITHER THIS TRYING TO GIVE HERSELF A FACE JOB IN A CLIK ELSE CLIK SUPERMARKET, OR CLIK SHE IS A VERY IGNORANT CLIK CONSUMER TO TRY AND CLICK PUT A GLASS BOTTLE IN A VERY UNSTABLE METAL GROCERY CART THAT VERY PROBABLY DOESN'T STEER.

While fat people are slouching around the grocery store, yawning and scratching and bored witless, tossing ribeye steaks, lobster, Doritoes, dip, beer, Stouffer's spinach souffle, ice cream, and malted milk balls into their grocery carts, skinny people are running around with their little clickers, bustling up and down the aisles, their eyes alert, their adrenalin whooshing, their limbs agile, figuring ways to screw Proctor and Gamble out of three cents.

SKINNY PEOPLE ALL LOOK ALIKE.



Only in fat people do pleasing distinctions come out: here an especially large thigh, there a round bosom, everywhere a thick ankle or nice abdomen or fat toe. If you think skinny people don't look alike, watch some marathoners run by, male or female: the same bones, the same big old blood vessels, the same flat stomachs, the same teensy hips, the same uninspiring upper arms, the same sharp cheekbones, the same promi-

nent shoulder blades, the same tight lips. It doesn't matter whether you meet a skinny person coming or going. Skinny people look the same on one side as they do on the other.

You never can tell how a skinny person will look once he lucks up and gets fat. But you can always tell what a fat person will look like if he accidentally slips up and gets skinny. He will look very dull and very, very hungry.

SKINNY PEOPLE ARE DRY AND BRITTLE.

FAT PEOPLE ARE WET AND PRIMORDIAL AND SOFT.

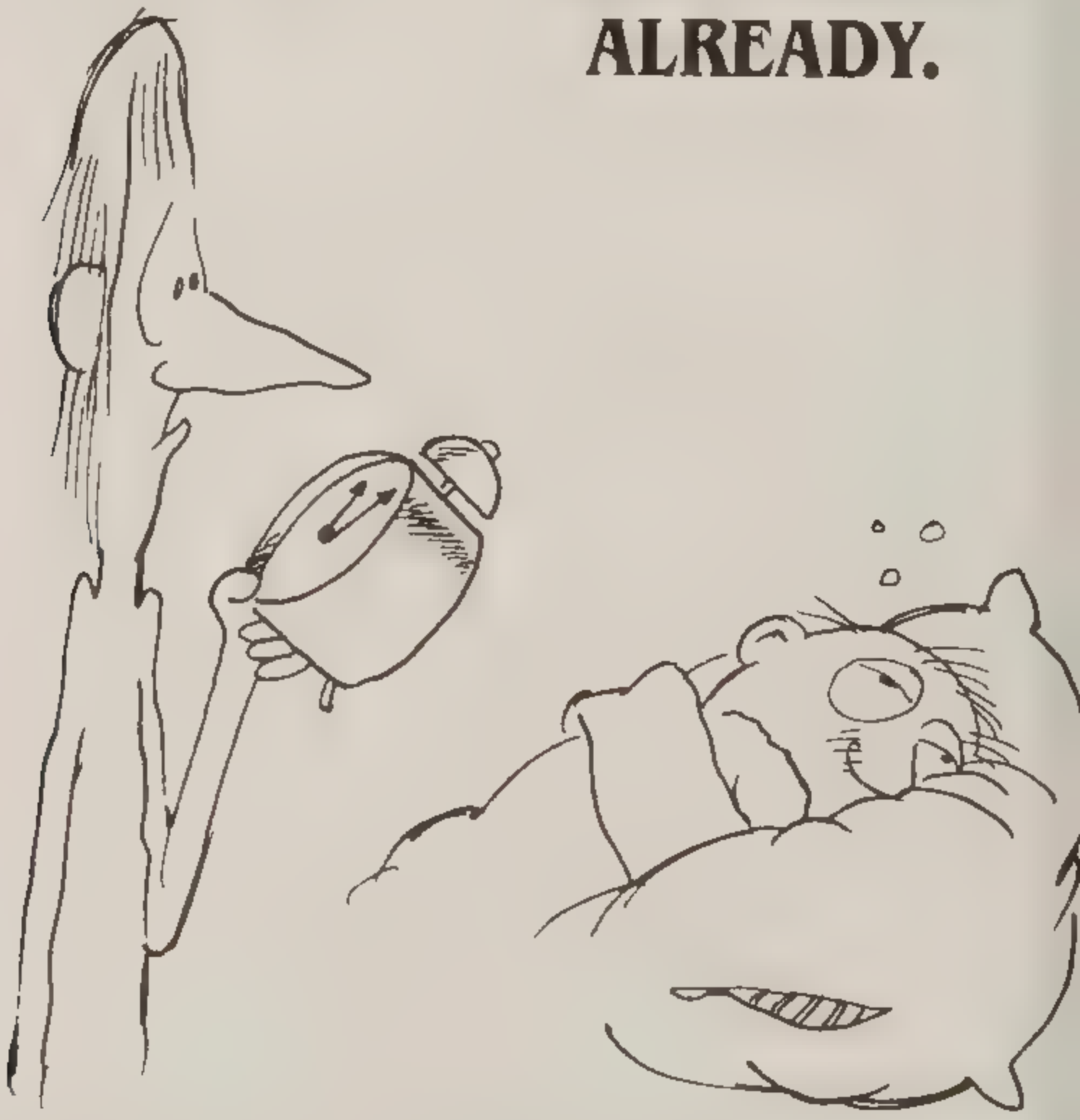
Why is it that from birth to age three we permit ourselves the soft and squishy and then cut ourselves off from softness forever? We spend our entire adult lives fretting about the fat, cushiony, soft things we used to love. We masochistically deny ourselves the slightest padding, the least lick of ice cream, the long sensuous pleasure of an all-day sucker. We let our mothers and nutritionists bamboozle us with carrot curls, apple wedges, and broccoli. We trim, pound, starve the fat off of ourselves. We harden up, tighten up, speed up, crisp up, and toughen up.

Even psychologists know how much humans like soft things. So how come we don't let our grown-ups be soft? Just when we put away our stuffed animals, our Linus baby blankets, our chocolate pudding and our milk bottles, we give up our nice round bodies to the demands of high fashion. Face it: round, soft, soothing, creamy, wet things are very appealing.

Maybe all this hardness is the real cause of high divorce rates and low romance. Maybe psychologists should study why modern adults are lean, hard, always jogging, and alone rather than warm, soft, always making love, and together.

SKINNY PEOPLE THINK THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY.

FAT PEOPLE THINK THE DAY IS TOO DAMN LONG ALREADY.



Everytime fat people look hopefully at their watches, only one tiny minute has gone by. When skinny people look at their watches, two hours have flown by. One of the things that makes a fat person's day drag is skinny people. So when skinny people express an interest in adding some hours to the day, fat people get really pissed. Fat people have enough problems already without having to spend one extra minute with a skinny person.

The reason skinny people think the day is so short is that they have such low standards for filling it. They will put any old thing in a day, no matter how stupid: straight-pin sorting, sandpapering, seashell cataloging, stamp-licking, bird-watching. Fat people have high standards. They are not satisfied with just any time-filler. They like big, moving experiences, very deep, very profound, very thrilling. Since life doesn't provide more than one or two of such moments per century, fat people are up the creek without a Timex. That is why fat people are often filling their time with cheese blintzes and despair. Fat people are waiting for something big to happen. But they will settle for a beer and pretzels.

AND HERE WE HAVE THE COUPLE OF THE YEAR: PRODENCE BUMPUS AND SHAWN TRAINER. PRUDY IS SHOWN AT HER BEST, TRYING TO IMPRESS SHAWN WITH HER INCREDIBLE ABILITY TO ADHERE POSTAGE STAMPS TO HER FACE. SHAWN AT RIGHT, IS OBVIOUSLY VERY UNIMPRESSED, IN FACT, HE'S PROBABLY QUITE BLITZED AND IS WONDERING WHERE IN GOD'S NAME THIS LESS THAN ATTRACTIVE CREATURE HAS EMERGED FROM.
TRAIN

SKINNY PEOPLE GET LOST IN DETAILS.

FAT PEOPLE SEE THE BIG PICTURE.

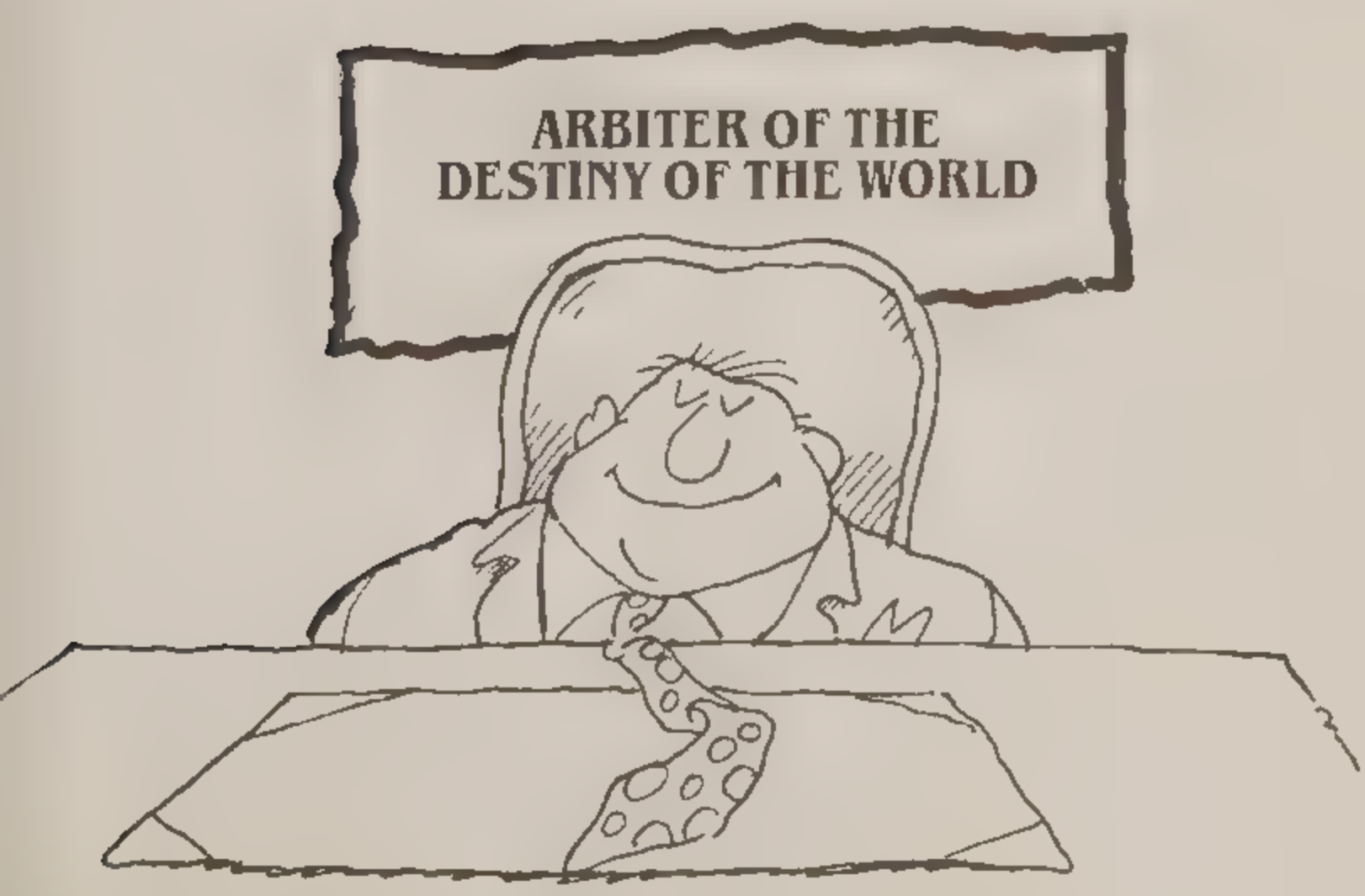
They are so skinny they can slip down between the flower fund and the doughnut-and-coffee concession and never be found again. Vice-presidencies were created for skinny people. Fat people would never tolerate such trivial duties.

Skinny people never get the big picture, the whole truth, the general gist. They make small points that are slightly skewed. Fat people hit the nail on the head. A skinny idea of a great issue is making sure that all office workers keep the Vene-

tian blinds at the same level. Skinny people are very worried about termite contracts, how best to steep tea, the one way to balance a checkbook, the mileage from Omaha to Tuscaloosa, the gypsy-moth infestation, the question of whether to send cut flowers or dish gardens to people with dead relatives, the length of the light change at the intersection of Fifth and Elm.

The smaller the problem, the more energy the skinny person will spend on it. Some skinny people can spend several hours on comma placement, the moral appropriateness of coffee breaks, the job description of a janitor, the semantics of the word "scenario."

Fat people never nitpick. They wouldn't stoop to a petty detail. They are too busy resting and waiting upon the Lord. Fat people should always be the president, the corporation executive, the leader, the dictator. Let the little people carry out the little jobs. You need somebody very fat and very full of charisma to run the whole show. You need somebody who can keep his nose out of the flower fund and his eyes on the Destiny of the World.

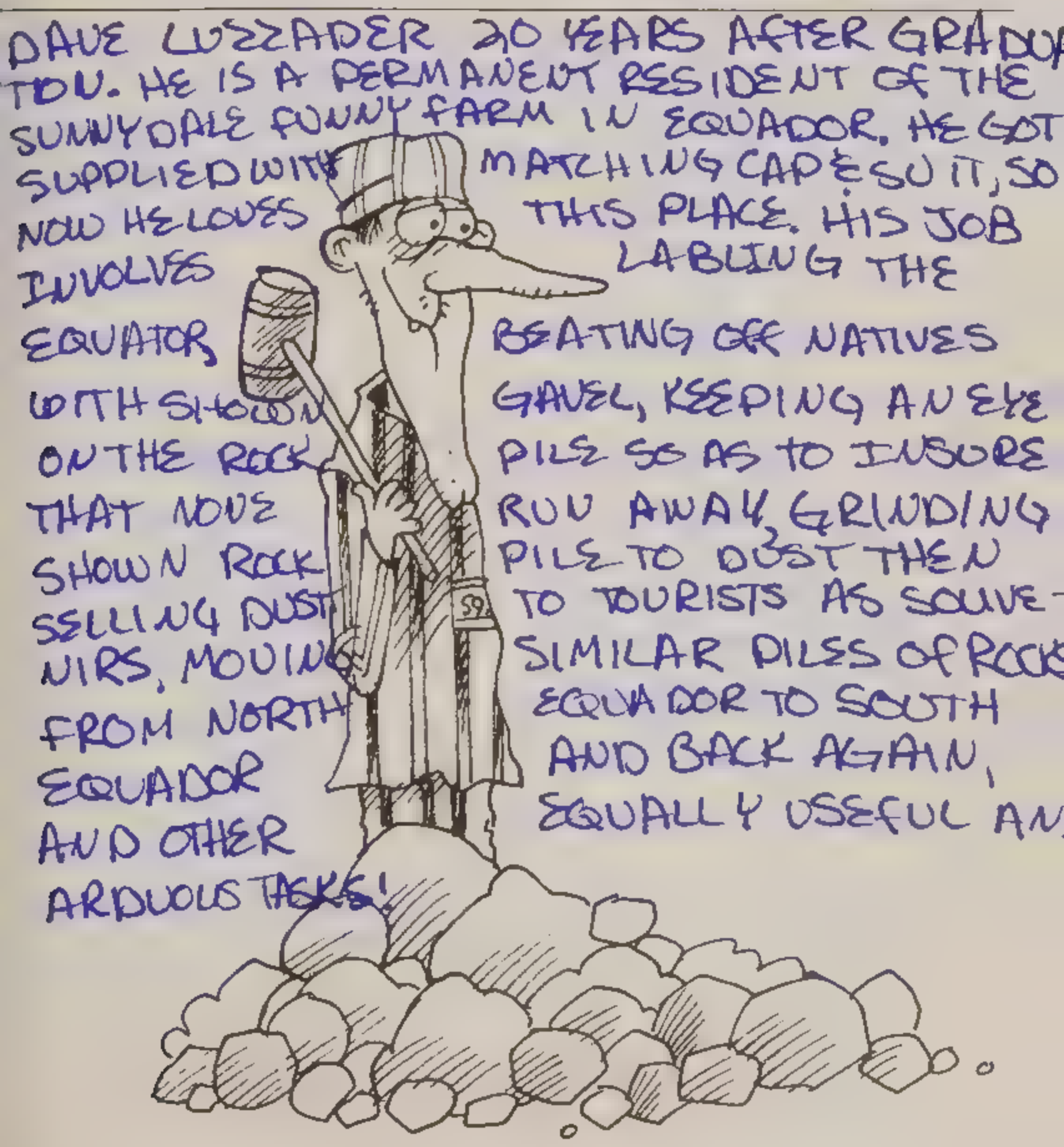


SKINNY PEOPLE WORSHIP WORK.

FAT PEOPLE THINK WORK IS WHAT GOD THOUGHT UP TO MAKE THE SABBATH LOOK GOOD BY COMPARISON.

Skinny people will do work that doesn't need doing and work that was just done. They will turn play into work. They will get the whole family working along with them. They will participate in work teams. They will systematize work. They will let work be an end in itself. They will spend all day on a pretty Saturday morning running around looking for some more work.

Work is probably a good idea for skinny people: keeps them out of trouble and far away from fat fun. The trick is not to let skinny people contaminate fat pleasure with hard work. When you are playing with skinny people, you have to remember that it's all a job with them. They will tell you how best to position your wrist when you throw the Frisbee. They will insist that you step into your golf


DAVE LUZZADER 20 YEARS AFTER GRADU
TDU. HE IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE
SUNNYDALE FUNNY FARM IN EQUADOR. HE GOT
SUPPLIED WITH MATCHING CAP & SU IT, SO
NOW HE LOVES THIS PLACE. HIS JOB
INVOLVES LABLING THE
EQUATOR BEATING OFF NATIVES
WITH SHOVEL GAVEL, KEEPING AN EYE
ON THE ROCK PILE SO AS TO INSURE
THAT NOVE RUN AWAY, GRINDING
SHOWN ROCK PILE TO DUST THEN
SELLING DUST TO TOURISTS AS SOUVE-
NIRS, MOVING SIMILAR PILES OF ROCK
FROM NORTH EQUADOR TO SOUTH
EQUADOR AND BACK AGAIN,
AND OTHER EQUALLY USEFUL AN
ARDUOUS TASKS!

shot. They will devise new ways for you to shuffle your cards and play your hand.

Try, if you're fat, to remain emotionally detached, calm, uninvolved. Look at the skinny person across the bridge table as though he were a bug in a laboratory.

If you can not remain objective, encourage the skinny person to play his own damn card game at another table. Tell him to go teach a course in the aerodynamics of Frisbee throwing instead of just throwing one.

Remember that work is all a skinny person has ever known. Pity is what you should be feeling.

Fat people put work in its proper place, somewhere between carrots and computers.

Fat people think work is what you do while you're waiting for somebody to come over. Fat people wedge tiny little chunks of work between cups of coffee, doughnuts, soap operas, literary classics, and people they like. Fat people do not forget that when Adam and Eve got tossed out of the Garden on their ears, they had to get up and go to work.

Fat people want to know what's so great about pushing mules down a furrow or wiping the ring out of the bathtub. No matter how much skinny people extol the virtues of work, fat people know that work is never as good as a big orange drink and a Home Box Office movie which holds out the promise of adult situations.

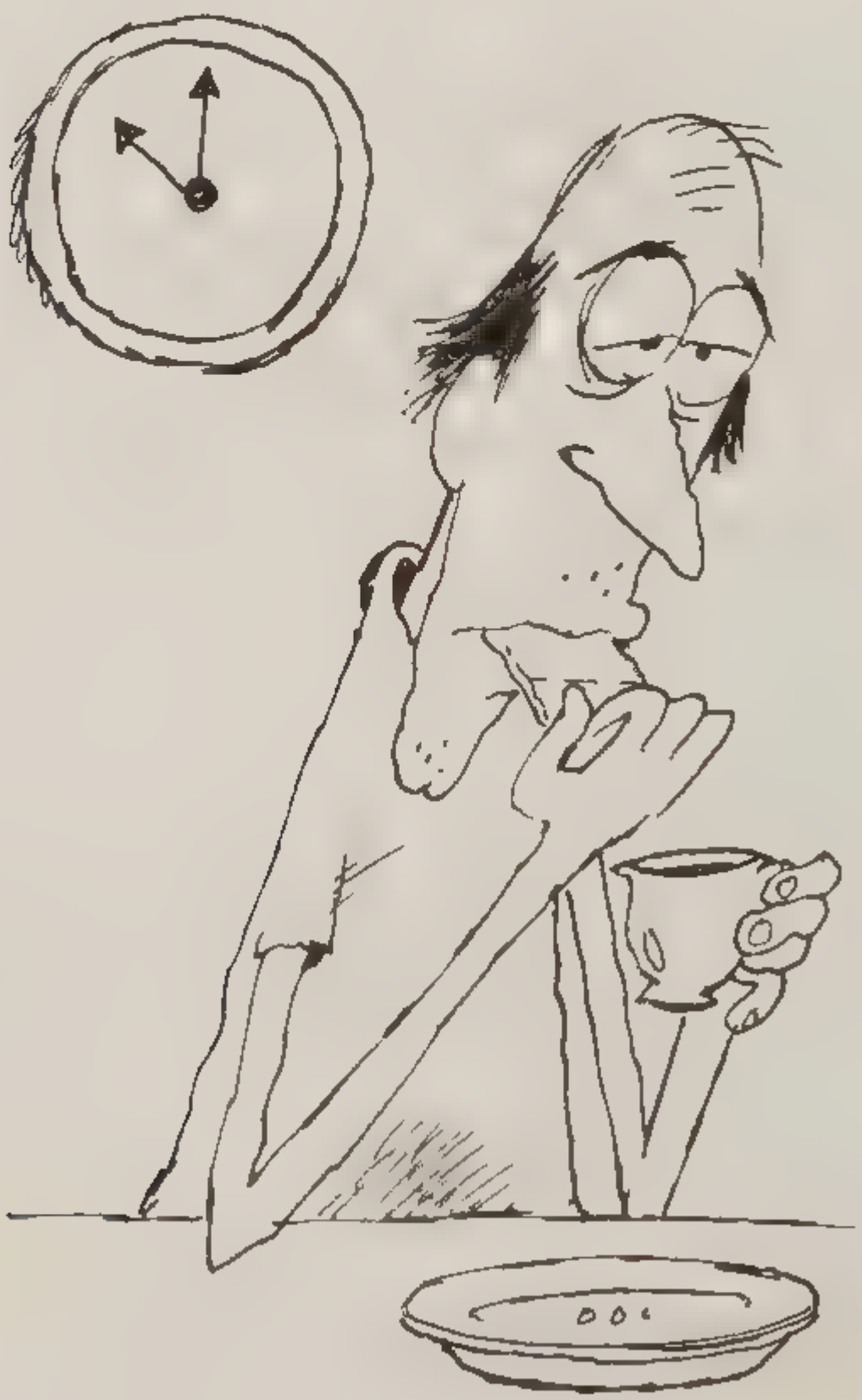
SKINNY PEOPLE STAY ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE.

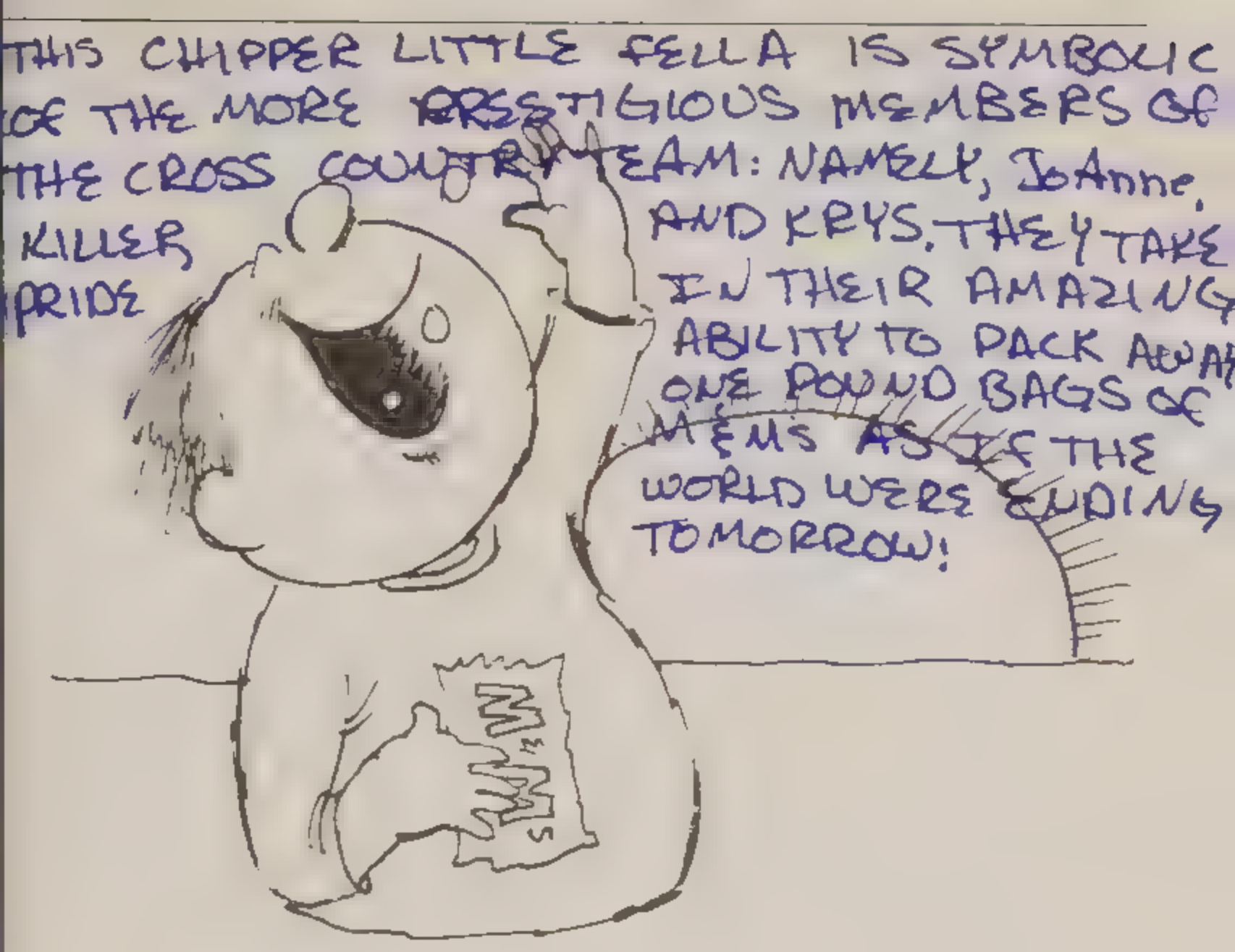
FAT PEOPLE HANG LOOSE.

Skinny people have sex every Saturday night, whether they need it or not. They like breakfast at seven, lunch at noon, dinner at 5:30. They like regular, planned snacks, like in kindergarten: juice and cookies at ten in the morning, Postum and plain Saltines at ten at night.

Skinny people like to vacuum on Monday, wash on Tuesday, iron and fold on Wednesday, polish on Thursday, dust on Friday, and do everything all over again on Saturday.

As for pleasure, skinny people have that on a schedule, too. They like to vacation over the Fourth of July, and that's it. They like parties to last two hours, maximum, even if every-




THIS CHIPPER LITTLE FELLA IS SYMBOLIC OF THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM: NAMELY, JoAnne, KILLER AND KRYS. THEY TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR AMAZING ABILITY TO PACK AWAY ONE POUND BAGS OF M&MS AS IF THE WORLD WERE ENDING TOMORROW!

body is having a good time. If skinny people have the least little smidgen of fun on Saturday night, they like to go to church on Sunday on the condition that church starts precisely at eleven and ends on the dot of twelve.

Skinny people work best on a schedule. That way they don't get clogged up or break down. They are so skinny they don't have any margin for error.

Fat people do what needs doing when the mood hits. They are vacuuming at three AM leaving for the beach on Tuesday at midnight fixing scrambled eggs at 2:30 in the afternoon and eating M and Ms at dawn. Fat people are flexible. They can always work you into their schedule. The reason fat people don't have a schedule is they know they can't count on anything.

They could be struck at any moment with an uncontrollable urge for pralines n' cream ice cream and have to run out and get some. Also fat people think schedules smack of unhealthy moderation. Fat people don't think anything should get in the way of random spur-of-the-moment excesses. If fat people are right in the middle of an orgy of sex food, fun, or leisure they certainly don't want some skinny person's buzzer to go off.

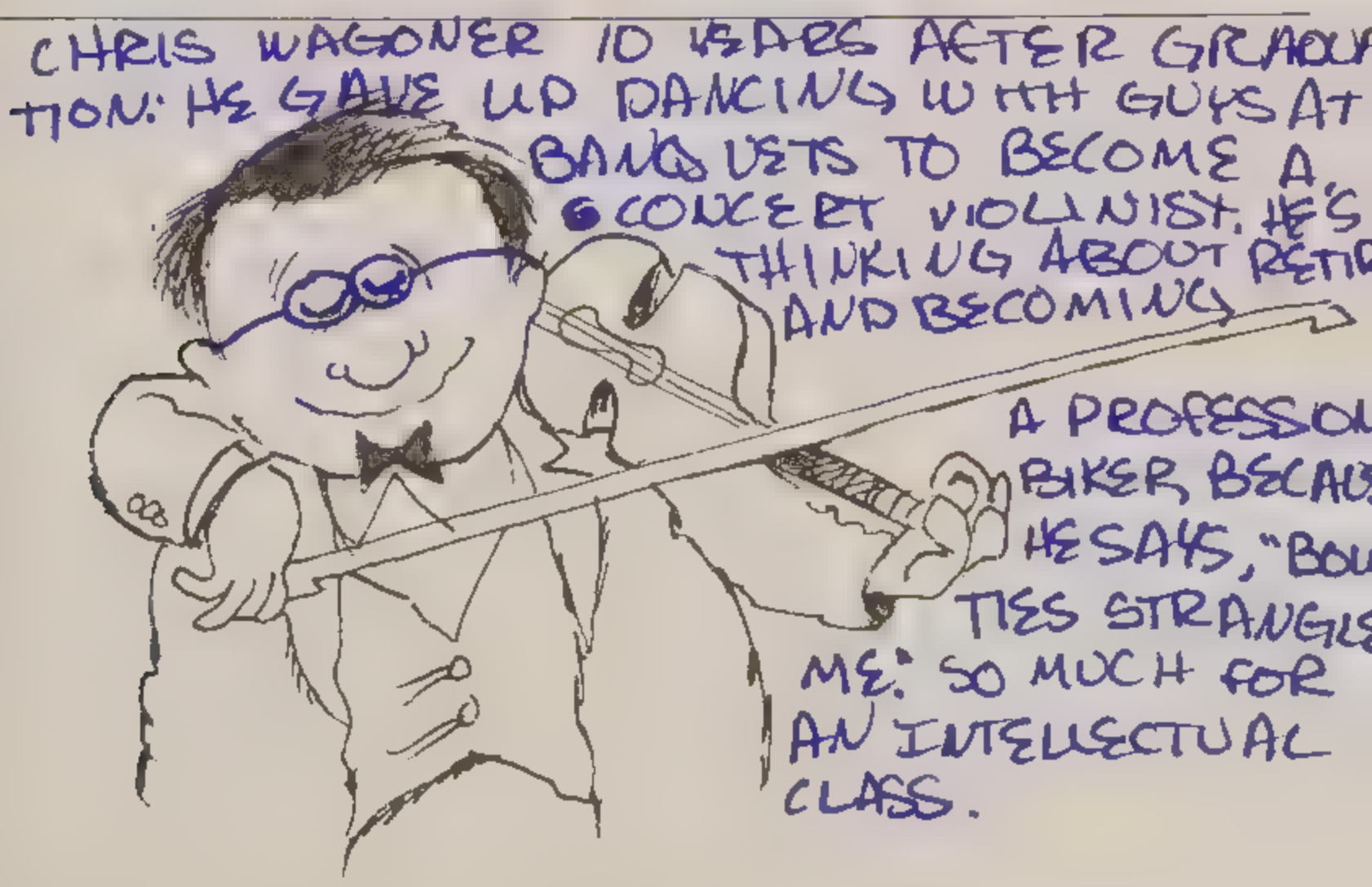
SKINNY PEOPLE TAKE THEIR CULTURE AND CONVERSATION IN SMALL DOSES, LIKE MEDICINE.

FAT PEOPLE LIKE THEIR CULTURE AND CONVERSATION IN HUGE CHUNKS, LIKE HALF A PECAN PIE NOW AND HALF LATER.

Skinny people like conversation to be two minutes or less, unless they are explaining photosynthesis and/or black holes or telling you what's wrong with you and how you could improve yourself. Skinny people label all conversations lasting longer than two minutes as "chatter," "nonsense," or "fruitless speculation." Remember, however, that there is no limit to how long a skinny person will talk when he is telling the joke about the horse with the green legs.

Skinny people take their culture in small, regular doses, like liver shots: book club on Tuesday, Helen Steiner Rice once a month before bedtime and after Milton Friedman, Shakespeare once a lifetime if required and in college, music by Muzak for five minutes every morning and evening. Skinny people won't touch a bite of poetry, art, opera. Skinny people will get up and walk out of Broadway plays or Little Theater productions. Their legs get twitchy. Skinny people also hate anything without a plot. A plot means action. Talk is not action. When actors are talking, skinny people think nothing is happening (See conversation.).

Fat people will stay up all night, talking, reading, singing, or creating. They like Wagner, Dickens, Milton, Shakepeare, Picasso, Michaelangelo, Beethoven, Dante, and Caesar's Palace. They like high tragedy, low comedy, and epic poetry. When they eat culture, they want to be full. When they converse, they say a mouthful.



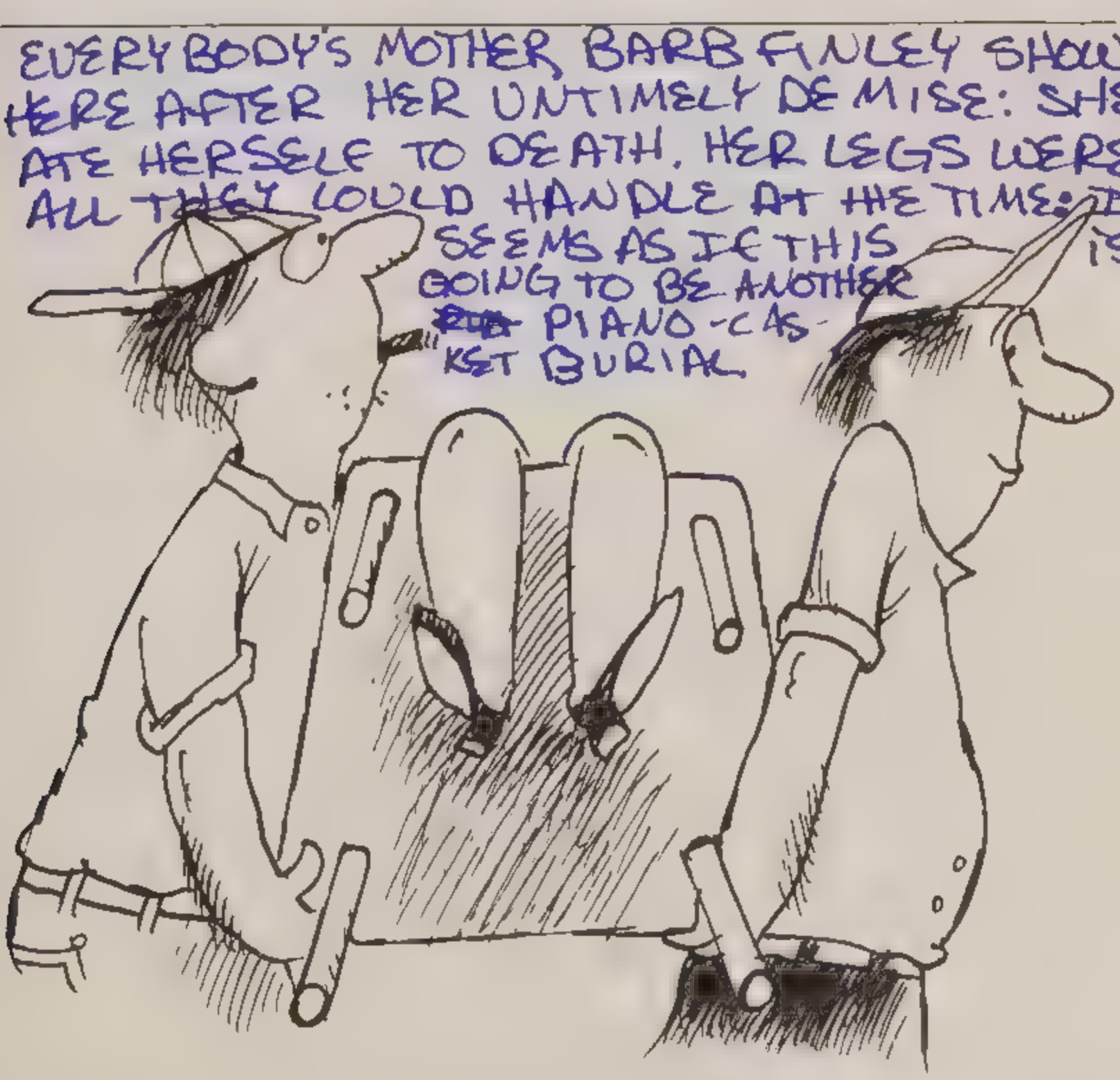
SKINNY PEOPLE LIKE A FOOL-PROOF PLAN.

FAT PEOPLE JUST WANT TO GO AHEAD AND GET IT OVER WITH.

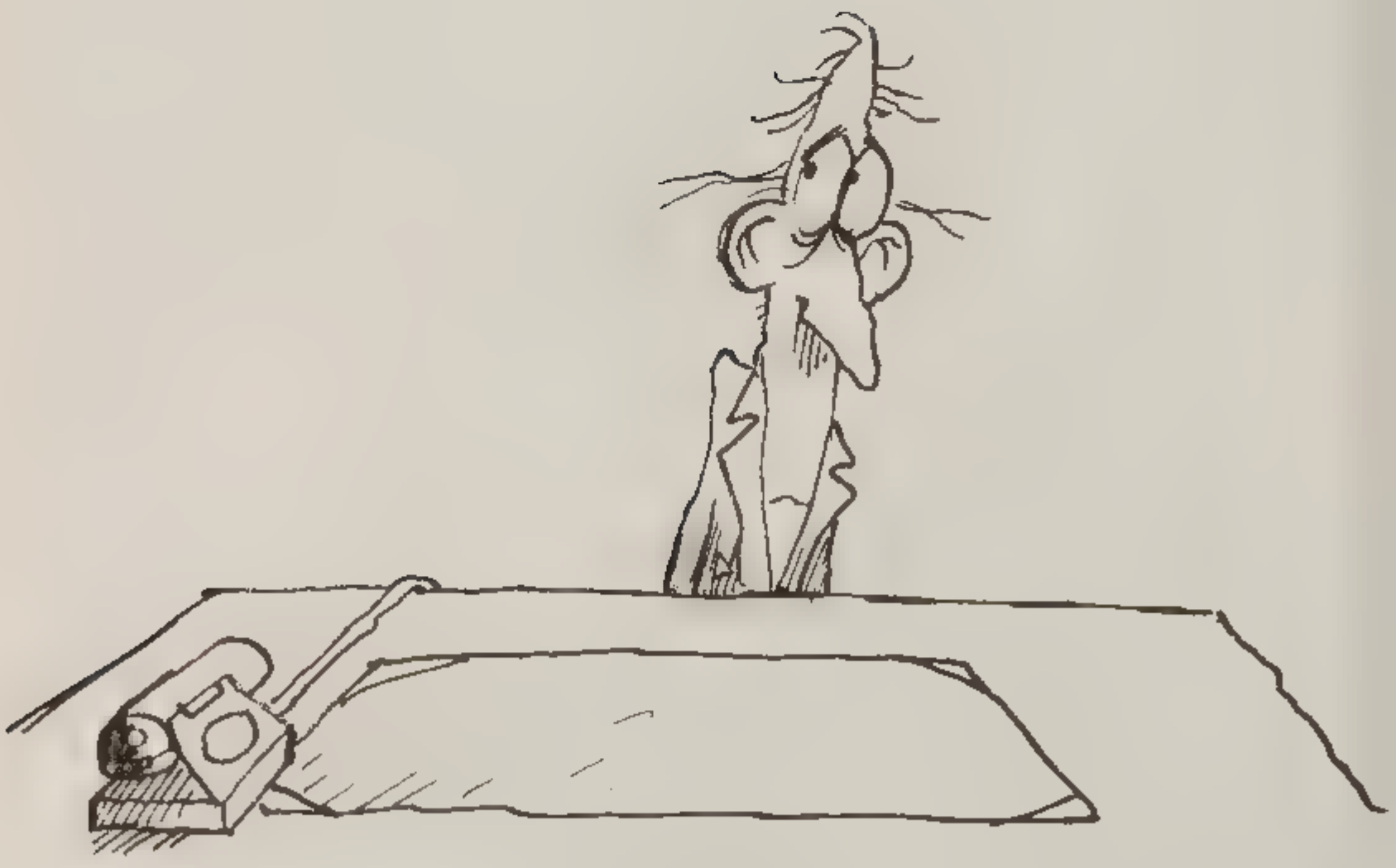
Skinny people spend a lot of time dreaming up fool-proof plans. These plans slow things down considerably and have been known to make fat people as close to crazy as they will ever get (Fat people could never entirely crack up since they have hot fudge as a perpetual support system.).

Anyway, the fool-proof plan can have its good uses, as long as no one is stupid enough to put it into effect. Skinny people can spend hours, even months or years, developing fool-proof plans. And an unimplemented plan never hurt anybody.

Fat people can head off fool-proof plans. For example, while the skinny person is drawing a diagram of where you'll be putting your furniture in the moving van, you and a couple of drunken movers can already be packed and ready to leave for St. Louis. All you have to do is throw the baby on top of the plumber's friend, toss the philodendron on top of the sofa, wedge the good china between the La-Z-Boy recliner and the stereo, and you're off.


EVERYBODY'S MOTHER BARB FINLEY SHOWN HERE AFTER HER UNTIMELY DEMISE: SHE ATE HERSELF TO DEATH. HER LEGS WERE ALL THEY COULD HANDLE AT THE TIME. IT SEEMS AS IF THIS IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER PIANO-CASKET BURIAL.

SKINNY
PEOPLE
ARE
BUSINESS
TYPES WHO
DON'T TRUST
BUSINESS.



They assume all business people act like they do. This conviction makes skinny people suspicious of all buying and selling. They never buy the first thing they see or what they like. They think somebody is trying to take them for every dime.

Skinny people perpetually comparison shop. This bad habit makes life hard for fat people. Nothing ever gets done because everybody is waiting for the skinny person to make the very best deal since the beginning of the world. While skinny people are checking consumer magazines about exterminating services, fat people are beating off roaches with the baby blanket or the baby. While skinny people are letting their bony fingers do some mighty careful walking through the yellow pages, fat people are being forced to plug the leaky hole in the pipe with a raw potato and hope for the best.

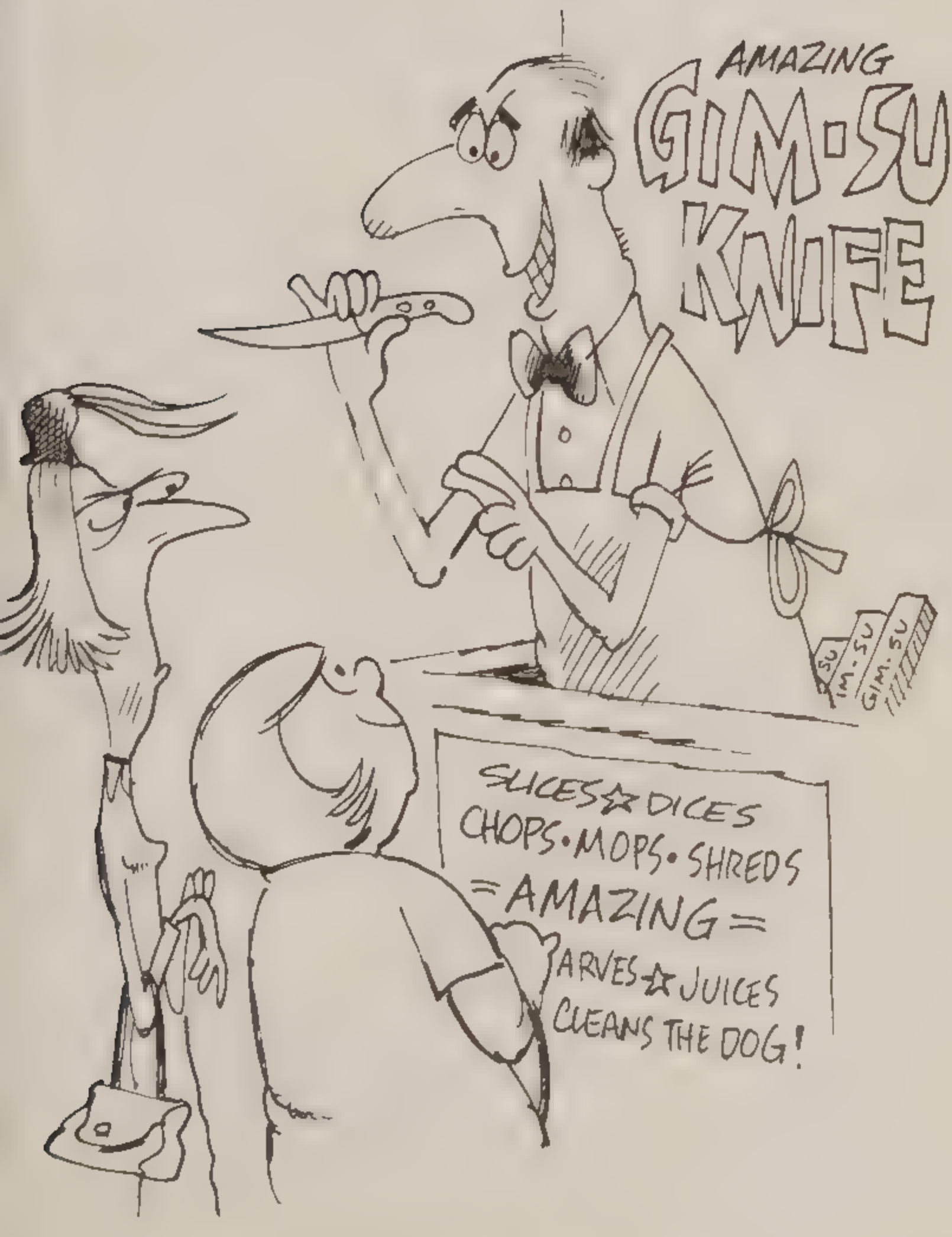
Even if a salesperson gives a skinny person a fair price, the skinny person won't buy it. Skinny people never buy what comes too easily. They think there's a catch. It never occurs to skinny people that even business people can be nice. It never occurs to skinny people that anybody would be nice.

Fat people feel sorry for anybody in the business world. Fat people will buy something from clerks and insurance salespersons just to make these poor folks feel better about themselves. Fat people are poor consumers, but they are great human beings. They never comparison shop. They hate odious comparisons, having been, so often, the victims of these comparisons.

Fat people think there are some things more important than profit. Fat people will eat brown lettuce or drive a lemon of a car rather than hurt somebody's feelings.

SKINNY PEOPLE LIKE TO DO IT RIGHT.

FAT PEOPLE LIKE TO GET IT DONE.



Skinny people get lost in the process and never come out. Fat people are interested only in the result. Fat people have blind faith if it looks good, feels good, sounds good, and has everybody pretty much fooled, it must be good.

Fat people think there's no reason to do it right when you can do it wrong and get away with it. They don't need a procedure. They won't be attempting more than is absolutely necessary to meet federal safety regulations and common decency requirements. Fat people will use dirty socks to dust, hang a sheet over a window for privacy, put a piece of unsanded plywood on a seat with the slats out, and sweep the dirt under the rug. Fat people think presentation is all. They are image-oriented. Skinny people are picky. They want the bottom of a table or chair that doesn't even show to be refinished. But then skinny people don't have anything else to do with their time.

Fat people want to get through the petty details of daily life so they can run for president, write a novel, or talk and rest. Skinny people think the petty details of life *are* life.

WHY SKINNY PEOPLE CAN'T ~~READ~~ SPELL.

MIKE LOOKING UP WORDS IN HIS PHONETIC DICTIONARY!

Skinny people have nothing to prop their ~~books~~ DICTIONARIES on. When they are sitting up, they have no laps. When they are lying down, the problem becomes even more serious. A skinny stomach lies lower on the bed than does the head of its owner. In other words, when a skinny person looks out across the horizon of himself, he sees nothing zero, zilch. Most skinny stomachs drop cavernously down between the hip bones. ~~Books~~ DICTIONARIES have been known to fall down into this abyss and never be found again.

DID YOU EVER GET THOSE OF THOSE?

Fat people are built for in-bed reading. Even when they are lying down, their abdomens are higher than their heads. Fat people never need elaborate bed equipment: no lap pillows, no breakfast trays. In fact, fat people can do more than just read in bed: they can pretty well live there. It's sort of like carrying your own recreation and convenience center on your own body. Fat people can read, eat, play solitaire on these big stomachs. Real fat people can manage ping pong or shuffleboard.

I had a smart fat aunt once who got to be almost illiterate over a period of weeks. She had her appendix taken out and the scar hurt so bad she no place to prop her books. Her brain shriveled up to practically nothing.

NOW WE KNOW WHY MIKE CHOSE WEST POINT! HE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO MAKE ANY OF HIS OWN DECISIONS. THEY CHOOSE ALL OF HIS CLASSES FOR HIM, ALL OF HIS BOOKS, ALL OF HIS CLOTHES, ALL OF HIS CLASSMATES, ALL OF HIS EXERCISES, EVEN! THIS WAY POOR MIKEY WON'T GET CONFUSED. AND WE THOUGHT HE WANTED TO GO ~~THERE~~ FOR THE GOOD LOOKING GIRLS!

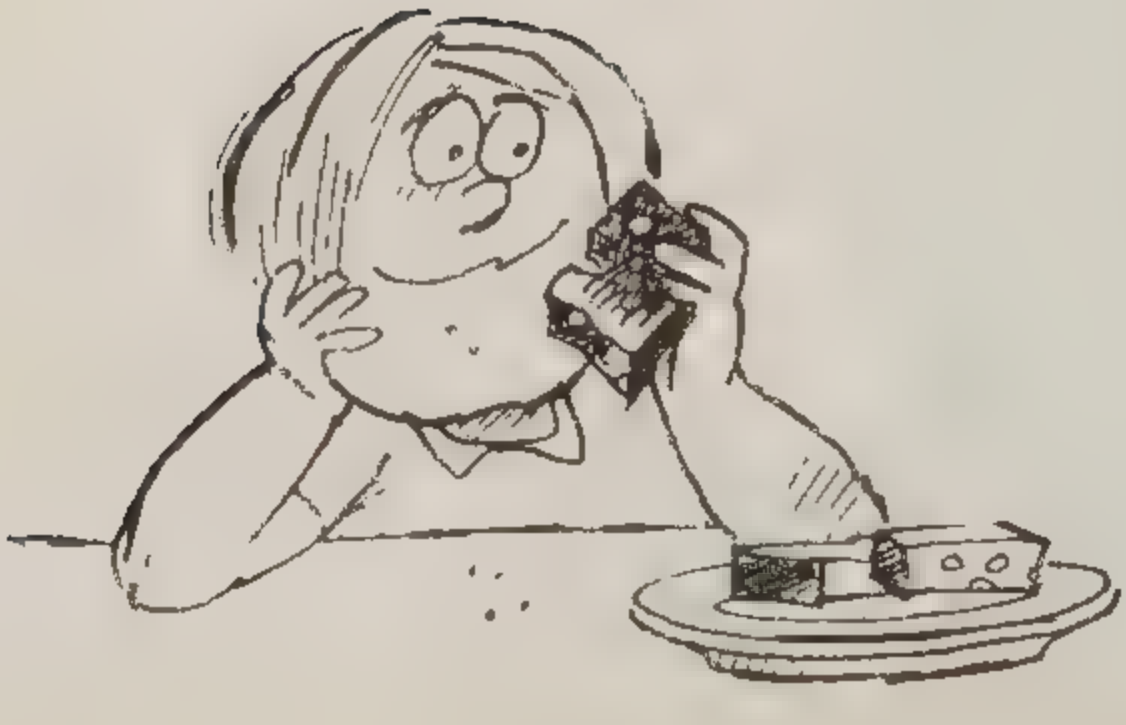
SKINNY
PEOPLE
LOVE DOGMA:
IT KEEPS
THEM FROM
GETTING
CONFUSED.

The more confused skinny people get, the more dogmatic they become.

If you want to drive a skinny person crazy, start picking apart his dogma.

A skinny person has dogma on a variety of subjects: the guv'ment, the economy, welfare, education, the utility companies, the shortage or glut of oil, capital punishment (Skinny people are for it), crime rates, how to raise children, sex, God (all in our heads), organization, the stock market.

Dogma wears fat people out. Eventually they will have to go take a nap or eat another brownie. Chocolate, by the way, is a superb antidote to dogma.



Skinny people are full of:

suspicion
spinach
cold blood
beansprouts
rutabagas
bones
sinew
denials
accusations
bile
kelp
stewed prunes
bran
blueprints
formulae
theories
graphs
energy
plans
systems
carrots
...and many other things
too terrible to name.

Beer and other alcoholic beverages

Fat people are full of :

M and Ms
malted milk balls
compassion
doubt
fear
pasta
mercy
faith
cholesterol
hope
affection
sorrow
questions
emotion
Hostess snack cakes
pralines 'n' cream ice cream
brownies
prime rib
. . . and many other things too wonderful for words.
SHiT

SKINNY PEOPLE HAVE A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF CELLULITE.

Now in recent years cellulite has gotten a bad name. Skinny people are always telling fat people how to pound off cellulite. Skinny people want to drive cellulite off the face of the earth. Skinny people are always grabbing their skinny thighs and pointing accusingly at small patches of cellulite.

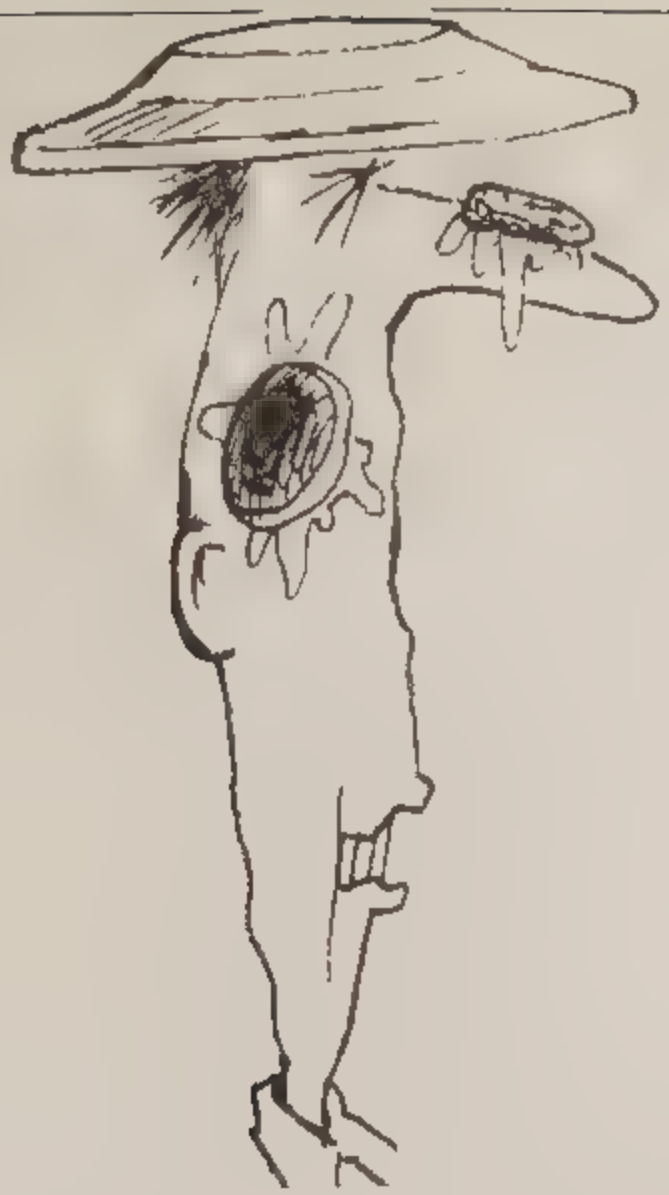
What I want to know is what's wrong with a little cellulite here and there? I've got some, and it hasn't hurt me none. Cellulite breaks up the long dull surfaces of the human skin. Remember when you were a kid and you made little spoon-shaped marks in your cold mashed potatoes? That's what cellulite looks like: pleasantly played-with mashed potatoes. I mean, cellulite is interesting. Cellulite is kind of sweet: all those little ripples and dints, all those fascinating patterns.

Skinny people are just jealous. They are mad because they want some cellulite of their very own. But all they have are those huge, grotesque-looking blue veins running up and down their legs. The ripple effect is much nicer, friendlier.

I think the press cellulite has gotten is lousy and propagandistic. I think we should all look at the good side of cellulite: a whole bunch of cellulite makes one nice fat person.

THE ONLY THING SKINNY PEOPLE CAN'T CONTROL IS THEIR NEED TO CONTROL.

FAT PEOPLE CAN'T CONTROL ANYTHING, PERIOD.



Skinny people are not satisfied just to control themselves, which would be silly but harmless. They will also try to control you. At a party, they will follow you around to make sure you don't say anything dirty or drink too much bourbon or spill any avocado dip on the rug. They will try to have you in bed at ten, and they will be whistling for you to get up at seven. They want you out of the bed so they can take the sheets off and start the wash.

Skinny people will tell you where to go to college, what to be when you grow up, how to invest your money. They will tell you, in the white heat of an argument, not to use that tone of voice with them. They will walk away from you or roll over and go to sleep "until you can get control of yourself and be reasonable."

They will walk into the kitchen, as you are sitting down to a plateful of Oreos and a gin and tonic, and tell you that if you just ate three squares a day and didn't take seconds you'd get that weight off. It is OK at this point to lose control and mash the creamy filling all into the skinny person's face. This will serve him right. He hates the creamy filling. He thinks it's the worst part.

Fat people operate by the golden rule of control: control others as you would be controlled unto. Since fat people don't even like to think about controlling or being controlled, they just keep eating so their mouths will be too full to issue commands.

SKINNY PEOPLE CAN EAT JUST ONE.

FAT PEOPLE EAT THE WHOLE THING.

Skinny people have an incredible, some would say unnatural, capacity to eat just one. They can eat one cashew, one sliver of the turkey they are carving, one M&M, one lick of pralines-and-cream ice cream. I've seen them come into the house on a broiling hot day after a long morning of mulching and take one tiny sip from a twelve-ounce can of beer, then put the rest back in the refrigerator to go flat.

You have to be a whiz at fractions to feed a skinny person. He wants a brownie that is no more, no less than one-inch square. He wants, and says so, a sixteenth of a pecan pie. He wants a fourth of a jigger of bourbon to flavor his water. He wants one tiny square out of a whole Hershey bar. Usually, however, he doesn't want any square. Skinny people don't care that much for chocolate. They can take it or leave it. They'd rather suck on a peppermint.

Extreme skinny people will resort to even more drastic measures. They will divide indivisible units when their appetites are especially exquisite. Sometimes they will cut an almond into two slivers or break a Dorito in two and put the other half back.

Mostly, however, skinny people do their dividing and measuring during, not before, a meal or snack. They will be in the middle of their second bite of jello and will suddenly spit part of it out, saying they are too full to finish. Or sometimes they will stop their forks in mid-air, return the rejected forkful to the plate, and leave the table, at which point the abandoned fat person can reach across the table and eat what the skinny person left behind.

Fat people always figure that since they've come this far, they might as well go all the way. They like nice round complete units: the whole box, the whole bag, the whole plateful, the whole bowl, the whole can.

MASSAGE A SKINNY PERSON, AND YOU'LL HIT BONE.

If you give a skinny person a massage, you will break your fingernails and frustrate yourself. Skinny people don't rub easily. First of all, they don't have enough true surface to mess with. Everytime you think you've got something, it turns out to be just more space. Then too, you can't pound or jiggle or mash them too much. Skinny people are fragile. They break easily. A skinny person could be ground to fine powder in seconds.

Besides, massages don't feel good to skinny people, any more than they do to the person giving them. Skinny people aren't voluptuous enough. They don't have enough skin and fat to do fascinating things with. Massaging a skinny person is like feeling up a chicken leg. You're just not that interested.

FAT PEOPLE GIVE YOU A SATISFYING HANDFUL.

Whenever you grab hold of a fat person, you know you've got something. And the something you've got is very, very entertaining. Don't go near a fat person unless you've got two or three hours to spare. It will take you that long to give the whole fleshy field a good squeeze.

SKINNY PEOPLE FORGET TO EAT.

This, however, is the only thing they forget. They remember everything bad, dumb, or inexcusable *you* ever did since the Great Depression. They can quote long passages from conversations in which you were wrong and they were right, which pretty much includes all conversations. They remember trivia. They know the name of Gene Autry's horse. They know how many feet across the front yard is. They know every detail of every rumor they ever heard. But they forget to eat.

While their double cheeseburger is forming greasy beads of fat and their French fries are shrivelling up on their desks, skinny people are engrossed in neatening up their paperclips and dusting their snake plants. While the crowd is gathering at the table for steamed oysters, skinny people are putting in a new bug light on the front porch. While the whip cream melts across the blueberry cobbler, skinny people are berating the American people and the guv'ment.

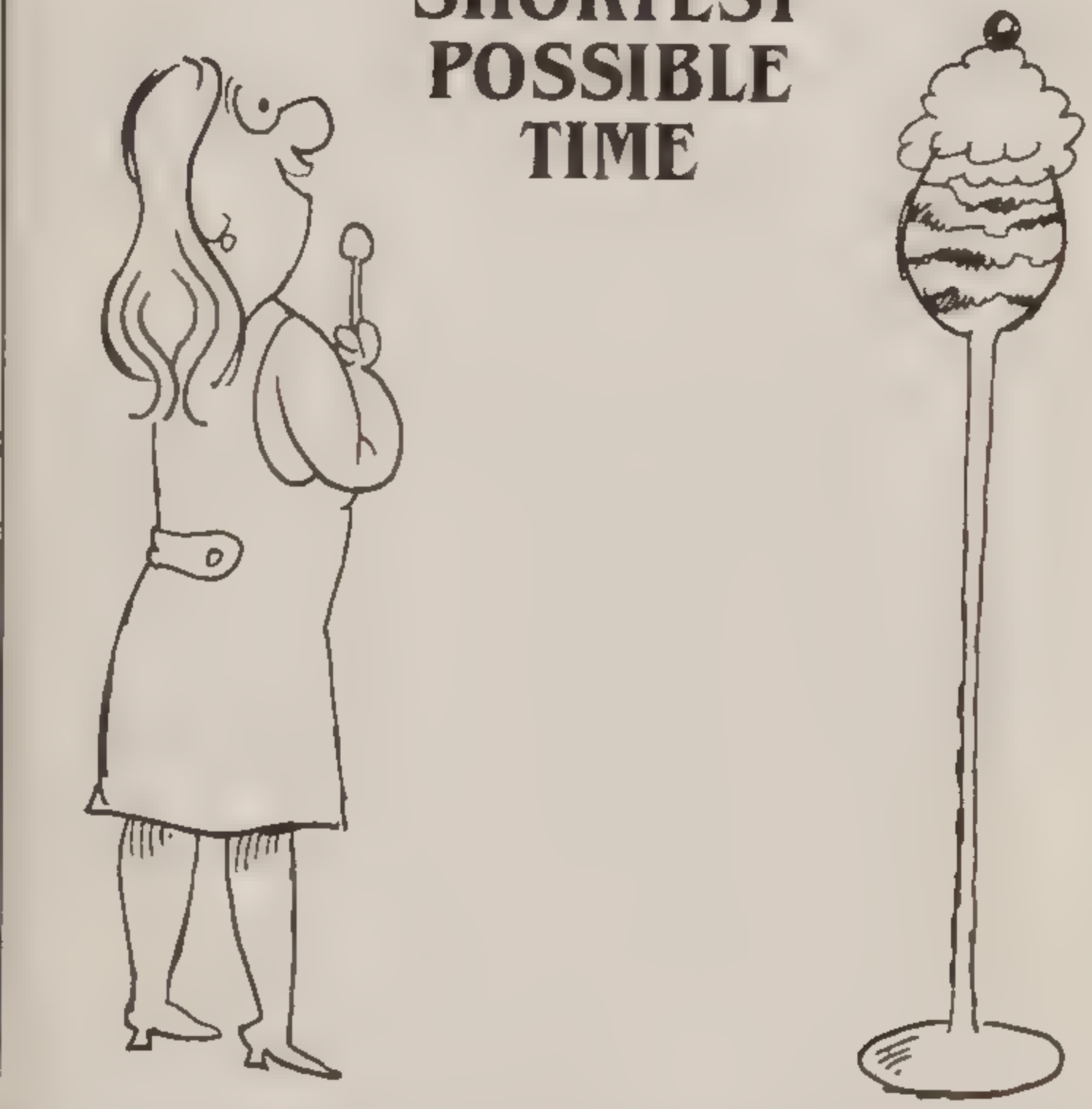
Skinny people also forget to eat what's already been put in front of them. They will eat pretty steady and with fair concentration for a few intense moments, then they'll suddenly put down their forks and leave the table. What skinny people leave on their plates is the crunchy end of roast beef, the bite of cake that has the most icing, the cherry from the hot fudge sundae the big glob of cheese that slid off the pizza. These are mysteries too deep to ponder.

SKINNY PEOPLE DON'T MEET FAT STANDARDS

Skinny people have been trying this entire century to get us to change our outsides. We want skinny people to change their insides. Our standards include the following:

...irony
...humor
...literary leanings
...talent for pleasure
...peace
...quiet
...intelligence
...perception
...warmth
...sociability
...sense of the sublime
...sense of the absurd
...tolerance for complexity
...willingness to suffer
...empathy
...and many other things too deep to fathom.

FAT ADVICE ON HOW TO GAIN WEIGHT IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME



Gaining weight isn't easy: it took you years to get thin; it will take you years to get fat again. But you can crash gain in increments of 5, 10, or 20 pounds within a matter of days. Understand that no sudden weight gain is permanent. The only way you can stay fat is to remain on a lifelong maintenance plan. The following crash gainers are to be used in emergencies only. Say you need to be fat by your daughter's wedding or the big company party. Say all your last year's clothes are too loose, hanging on you like sails when the wind dies. You too can be fat like your fat friends. It's a matter of willpower and dedication.

Crash Gains

1. The Beer and Doritoes Gaining Plan – It's simple. For three days, continue your regular eating habits (beansprouts, Nabs, yogurt, rutabagas), but just commit yourself to perpetual nibbling on Doritoes and sipping on beer. If you have trouble eating Doritoes, just suck on them. Pick a weekend when you don't have any physical activities scheduled. Resist the urge to use between-meal snacking time for vacuuming or wood-carving. If you can stand it, try dunking each Dorito in a generous bowl of sour-cream dip. You can manage dramatic gains of up to five or ten pounds with these simple techniques, depending on how skinny you are when you start.

2. The How, Not What, Weight-Gain Plan Continue to eat what you've been eating but change the method of preparation. Put butter or cream sauce on everything, including your bran buds. Add cream and sugar to you coffee. If you've been broiling, fry. This plan works as well for a lifetime as it does for a day. Fat people swear by it, guaranteeing permanent weight gains of twenty or thrity pounds.

3. The Metrecal Double Gainer — Here you just eat what you've always eaten but add three of four cans of diet liquid between meals. Fat people have been doing this for years, except that they drank the Metrecal in public and ate the regular meals plus snacks in private.

4. The One-Food, No-Fuss Weight Gain Plan — Eat 4000 calories daily of chocolate, butterscotch, cheese, or whatever you can stand in large quantities. This weight gain is not to be undertaken for more than three days and should not be started without a doctor's examination. Also, a dentist's.

SKINNY PERSON'S LIFETIME MAINTENANCE WEIGHT-GAIN PLAN.

Breakfast: Two Danish
cheese omelet
hash browns
a rasher of bacon
two cups of coffee with cream and sugar

Lunch: double cheeseburger, hold the lettuce
french fries
two beers
pie a la mode

Dinner: twelve-ounce steak
large baked potato, sour cream, and butter
lima beans
rolls
cheesecake
coffee with cream and sugar

1000 calorie snack: buttered popcorn
fried chicken in a bucket
salted mixed nuts
antacid — optional

Note: If skinny people will stay on this eating plan just prior to Republican administrations or forecasts of famine and pestilence, they will get fat in no time and be ready for anything. Skinny people, however, should take into account the extra calories they will be burning when they are having a better sex life. After all, as the skinnies gain weight, they will start feeling all voluptuous and may get so sexually active they will burn up what they gain. What skinny people want to do is store fat, not use it.

LET'S FACE IT: SKINNY PEOPLE ARE SO DAMN THIN IT'S PITIFUL.

NO SHIT!

SO, BE NICE, FAT AMERICA:

Take a skinny person to lunch, being sure to buy him a double-dip scoop of chocolate mint ice cream for dessert.

Help a skinny person sit still by lolling around on top of him.

Let a skinny person give you a massage, and don't put a time limit on him.

Cradle a skinny person in your ample arms.

Fix a skinny person a nice big pina colada.

Feed a skinny person some tapioca when he gets all queasy.

Read a skinny person a sonnet.

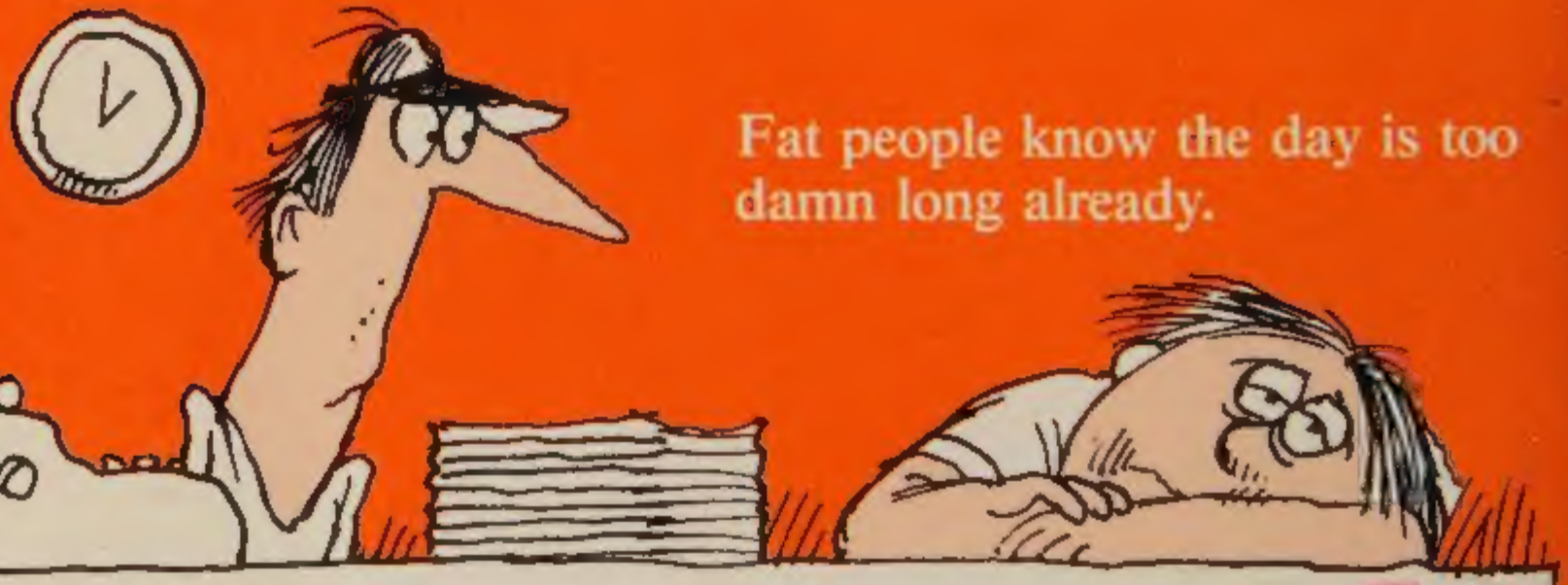
Rock a skinny person to sleep.

Remember that skinny people are starved for affection, and they'll never get it from a computer. In fact, fat people could change the lives of skinny people by keeping them strictly away from crafts, chores, crudités, calculus, and calisthenics. If fat people helped skinny people stay on a round soft program for weeks or months, I'll bet skinny people would turn into regular human beings. An even though skinny people don't look like they're worth saving, there might be a fold or two of fat in them yet.

CAESER WAS RIGHT.
THIN PEOPLE NEED WATCHING

Skinny people trim the fat off roast beef, even the brown crunchy part that fat people would kill for.

Skinny people think there aren't enough hours in the day.



Fat people know the day is too damn long already.

Skinny people seek truth.

Fat folk know there is no tr
you might as well seek the an
to life over a hot fudge sunc

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